Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Rabin Holds News Conference in Cairo

TA0405155794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1325 GMT 4 May 94

[News conference by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin with foreign and domestic correspondents in Cairo—live; passages within slantlines in English]

[Text] [Rabin] Good afternoon. As you well know, the first stage of the negotiations on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles [DOP] ended today. The negotiations lasted seven months. This duration can be in part explained by the fact that we, naturally, wanted to reach a detailed agreement which would clarify in no uncertain terms the complex fabric of peaceful coexistence for two entities that—as is well known—have no love relationship, to put it mildly. This was done to implement the conceptual gist of the interim agreement. The interim agreement consists of two parts: giving the Palestinians authority to run their lives; and giving ourselves responsibility for Israel's external security, and defense of the settlements including settlers' movements within the territories. Gaza and Jericho is the first stage of the interim agreement. This was done to ascertain how the system functions, and it required dealing with numerous details. Today you were again made aware of the nature of the negotiations, their occasional deviations and repetitions. Therefore, I really regard the agreement and the accompanying maps as a basis that allows for the implementation of the concept's nucleus for the Palestinians to run their lives while we ensure the security of the State of Israel and its citizens.

Naturally, the key does not lie in the agreements alone, but also in their implementation. We are interested in relatively short implementation period. It became apparent to me last night that the PLO chairman is asking for several more weeks, two or three, for an overlapping period. We will probably have to agree to this, provided an overlap indeed takes place. I understand that today, 22 Palestinian policemen were supposed to begin manning the points and regions of coordination so that the policemen are received in an orderly manner. I hope that people will also be sent who are able to assume responsibility for running civilian life. I wish to point out: Today, in Gaza alone, 24,000 Palestinians receive their salary from the civil administration; 6,000 are permanent employees, and 18,000 are employed on a temporary basis to prevent the closure from causing economic distress that could create a security problem. The PLO has limited experience in running a community. There are people there who are able. I hope that the appropriate people arrive or are found in place, and indeed the handing over of the civilian and security issues is done properly. I mainly speak of the Gaza Strip, where some 750,000 Palestinians reside. In the entire Gaza region, there are more or less 16,000 residents, which is naturally much smaller [sentence and figure as heard]. The territory of Gaza that would be handed over to the /Palestinian Authority/ does not include a single Israeli settlement. Therefore, the problems there are much simpler.

[Shlomo Raz, Qol Israel] Does the incident that took place on the stage during the signing ceremony not make you wonder about the ability to implement the agreement? Does it not make you regret the entire move?

[Rabin] There are no regrets, although during the past several months we learned that problems come up on occasion. Then, if we make our position unequivocally clear, we overcome the problems.

[Raz] Mr. Prime Minister, how do you intend to handle the negotiations with Syria following the agreement with the PLO? How much will this agreement influence the negotiations with Syria?

[Rabin] These are two separate negotiation tracks. The secretary of state visited our region. We raised several ideas. We received responses which, without exaggeration, revealed large gaps between our fundamental positions and theirs. Nevertheless, the secretary of state will probably return to our region in two weeks. If there is no change in the Syrian positions then a waiting period clearly lies ahead until their positions change because there are certain things that no Israeli Government can accept.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, can the principle of a certain area first also be applied on the Golan Heights?

[Rabin] I think that this constitutes an unsuccessful attempt to link today's very meaningful withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho first to something which is ultimately related to the last line of withdrawal [pauses]—because as you know, this government has accepted the principle of territorial compromise and withdrawal—certainly from part of the Golan Heights—in exchange for peace. We also implemented a withdrawal in the case of Egypt without linking the issue to the last line of withdrawal from Egyptian territory. This is a different matter than Gaza and Jericho First.

[Imanu'el Rosen, Israel Television Channel 2] What would have happened had 'Arafat continued to refuse to sign the maps?

[Rabin] I think I made myself very clear to everyone there. I said that I would not make a speech and there would be no agreement.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, perhaps you can give us an authoritative explanation of what happened on the podium today? What was the cause of the misunderstanding?

[Rabin] I want to make something very clear. Perhaps the media overplayed reports that two central and dramatic issues were slated to be resolved in the meeting between 'Arafat and myself: the policeman on the bridge, and the expansion of the Jericho area. I think that in all

truth—not only because of us and perhaps mostly due to no fault of our own—we devoted too much time to symbolic matters while the major problems of what would happen in the Gaza Strip where 750,000 Palestinians live in poverty; the problem of how to establish a system capable of maintaining public order and assuming its security responsibilities; the question of how to prepare for assuming control over the area.... [pauses]. As I mentioned earlier, the Civil Administration currently pays the salaries of 24,000 wage earners in the Gaza Strip alone. Who will pay their salaries when we leave tomorrow or in one week? Who has made preparations to pay their salaries? Is there any institutional structure capable of assuming the responsibility? In the past I was firmly opposed to a unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. The reason was first and foremost that we would be blamed for the chaos, reciprocal killings, and other negative developments that could ensue if we implemented a rapid unilateral withdrawal from the Gaza Strip without the presence of a party capable of assuming minimal security responsibilities—and there is no such party. Who is capable of assuming minimal security responsibilities for the most immediate and vital necessities in the Gaza Strip? If we do not supply power there is no electricity in the Gaza Strip. If we do not supply it there is no water in the Gaza Strip. If we do not supply the hospitals with oxygen tanks then I do not know what would happen there. If we suddenly cut off the supply of medicine and drugs—and there is no one there willing and capable of assuming responsibility—then that might possibly obligate us today to drag out the process of our withdrawal from the Gaza Strip far longer than we would have wanted. Because our Palestinian partner was apparently busy with other things and less interested in sending people to the area to start overlapping in order to assume responsibility. Computers perhaps are the only field today in which some degree of overlap has taken place to some extent. That is the problem.

[Rabin] /As you are fully aware we signed today the agreement about Gaza-Jericho first, which is the first phase of the implementation of the DOP signed last September in Washington. I believe the minor incident that took place on the platform shows to you the difficulties that we experienced in the last over seven months of negotiations of the detailed implementation of the first phase—the Gaza-Jericho agreement. Why we stressed on preparing an agreement which all the details that we considered to be vital to its success must be worked out. We are trying here to create peaceful coexistence between two entities that there is no love lost between them—and I put it mildly. The purpose is to create the kind of peaceful coexistence that on one hand the Palestinian authority will run the lives of the Palestinians in the agreed areas: the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The main problem is in Jericho, it is 750,000 Palestinians vis a vis 16,000 to 20,000 in the Jericho area [sentence as heard]. The economic difficulties are much bigger in the Gaza Strip. We want to maintain security. Security to the State of Israel—that is to say external security. We agreed with the Palestinians in the DOP about having the settlements. Therefore, we are carrying the overall responsibility for the settlements in the territories, especially in the Gaza Strip—in the Jericho area there are no Israeli settlements—and of course, to their movement from the settlements to Israel or passing, like in Jericho, from the northern part into Jerusalem. We knew that unless everything will be prepared in detail there will be no chance to succeed to build this peaceful coexistence.

/Second, we found that much time was lost without overlapping activities on their part. It starts only today when 22 officers of their police will go there. We have to build and to create three centers of coordination: two in the Gaza Strip and one in Jericho, through which coordination between the Israeli military forces and the Palestinian police and other security activities will be coordinated otherwise the clashes can create a real problem. Therefore, we did not lose time. After all, we could complete the handing over from our own part in two, three weeks from today. It might be even in ten days. The problem today, as the chairman of the PLO said last night or deep in the night, is that he might demand little bit more: two, three even up to four weeks. We would like once we have reached agreement to get out as quickly as possible from wherever we have to get out. But we have an address, a capable address to hand over responsibility to the life of the Palestinians in the territories. Just to give you one example: We today pay to the Civil Administration under the military government of Israel in the Gaza Strip for 24,000 people. Six thousand permanent employees of the Civil Administration, for 18,000 a special budget was appropriated to prevent too high unemployment, the kind that would increase as a result of the closure on the territories. But we do not want the economic situation to develop in a way that it will create security risks for us. Tomorrow, we will leave. Who will pay these 24,000 people? [passage indistinct]

[Rabin, continues] /...from the outside, most of the people that have not been for 20 or 27 years in the Gaza Strip or in Jericho. How long will it take to acquaint themselves with the new changes in the area? Twenty seven years ago, when we entered during the Six-Day War to the Gaza Strip, there were less than 300,000 people there. Today it is three quarters of a million, if not 800,000. There are practical problems that, unfortunately, focus was not given enough in proper preparation for the handing over. We will have now to waste time, from our point of view, because for whatever we have agreed and for wherever we have agreed to pull out, we are ready to do it as quickly as possible. We will wait to see, today, tomorrow, the day after. Hopefully the infrastructure, the overlapping will be done in proper way. And we are committed toward what we signed today. We know that the partner is not accustomed to be responsible to life of community. It has limited experience in certain issues, but there are very capable Palestinians,

and I believe there is no shortage of capable people there, if they have the determination and the guidance to what has been agreed on./

[Unidentified correspondent] /Did Mr. 'Arafat tell you last night that he would not sign the map...?

[Rabin, interrupting] /I will explain what happened. Unfortunately, the media in the last three months built up two issues that would be decided in the meeting between Chairman 'Arafat and myself: One is the Palestinian police on the bridge, one is the size of the Jericho area. Believe me, the two are symbols, for each side might be important, but this is not the crux of the problem that we face together in Gaza-Jericho alone. The issues that I referred to—how to maintain the life of the Palestinians, to develop them economically, socially; the question of security—these are the two issues that will decide the success or the failure of the attempt that we are engaged in. But the media built it, and I was limited by the principles that I was guided by them when we decided on Jericho in addition to Gaza—that it will be a limited area; that it will not include any Israeli settlement, in contradiction to the Gaza Strip. Second, for me, security along the lines, external lines, it is to say that the external security interpretation, especially along the Jordan River, is an issue of great concern. Therefore I could not meet his expectations. He brought up another issue: Special arrangements in the Rafah terminal, and he demanded that there, the director general will be Palestinian. I could not meet this. [passage indistinct]

[Rabin continues] /...we signed the agreement on the basis of my position. It is to say: we added a certain amount of area to Jericho area as it was described before yesterday, and I agreed that we can continue the discussions on the issues but, when we sign, it will be on the basis of my answers. How it was ended? First I made it clear that unless the maps will not be signed there will be no agreement and I will not speak./ [passage indistinct]

[Rabin continues] /...I agreed that the discussions on these issues will be continued without affecting the implementation of the agreement—based on what we know last night. I agreed to send a letter in which I will say that there will be continued discussions on these three issues./

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Rabin] /I am sure that from the side of the Palestinians, it looks to a dramatic change in their lives. For the first time, the Palestinians will run large communities in what used to be British-mandated Palestine. From our point of view, the main test is security... [transmission interrupted]

[Rabin continues]/...we know that the issue of Jerusalem will be brought up in accordance to what we signed in the DOP. It is to say: Not later than two years after the completion of the implementation of Gaza-Jericho First. Jerusalem will not be discussed when we negotiate the second phase of the interim agreement, the elections, the final composition of the Palestinian authority, and the future of Judaea and Samaria. For me.... [break in reception]

[Rabin continues] /...some people did not believe Israel is serious in its readiness to go along with what we were committed to. But we, when we say, we mean it. Second, I believe that the question of the money was understood by us for a long time. This is why Israel's Foreign Minister Peres and others were active with the countries and organizations.../ [break in reception]

[Unidentified correspondent] [Indistinct question on the release of prisoners]

[Rabin] We have understandings and agreements regarding the release of prisoners, and we will follow them. I would not like to go into detail on this issue—not here, not today. As for the Palestinian, PLO stand, regarding the shape of the permanent arrangement: You have their stand from the Madrid conference. They never kept it a secret. We have a different position. The most important thing now is to concentrate on the issues included in the DOP for the interim agreement. The first stage of the interim agreement is Gaza and Jericho First. Let us prove that we can create that which we have agreed on. Then we will talk about the end of it.

MENA Reports Departure of Secretary Christopher

NC0405153494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his accompanying delegation left Cairo tonight for home, following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he attended the signing of the Palestinian self-rule agreement.

Clinton Phone Call to Mubarak on Accord Reported

NC0405162494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1547 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this afternoon received a telephone call from U.S. President Bill Clinton, during which the latter congratulated him on the signing of Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Clinton described the signing of the agreement as a historic event, the beginning of an era, and a fresh start toward peace and prosperity not only for Israel and the Palestinians, but for the entire Middle East.

The U.S. President also congratulated President Mubarak on his birthday, which is today.

Mubarak Receives Phone Call From Israeli President

NC0405163094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a telephone call this afternoon

from Israeli President Ezer Weizman, who congratulated Mubarak on the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Weizman praised the effective role Egypt played in achieving peace in the region and congratulated Mubarak on his birthday, which is today.

Palestinian Police To Enter Gaza, Jericho 8 May

NC0505095594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 5 May (MENA)—Palestinian negotiator Hasan 'Usfur has said that 1,000 Palestinian police will enter Gaza and Jericho on Sunday [8 May].

The force will begin to take over the camps from which the Israeli Army will withdraw, he said.

'Usfur told MENA today that 22 Palestinian officers representing the Palestinian side in the Palestinian-Israeli Coordination and Cooperation Committee arrived in Gaza on Tuesday to prepare for the entry of the Palestinian police force.

He said 6,000 members of the force will enter the self-rule areas in the next two weeks.

It was agreed, he explained, that the Palestinian police force would consist of 9,000 personnel, 7,000 of which will come from outside the occupied territories and 2,000 from inside the self-rule areas.

'Usfur said that Israel yesterday released 850 Palestinian prisoners. He said the rest of the 5,000 prisoners whose release was agreed upon will be freed in batches over the next five weeks.

Turkey's Cetin Welcomes 'Historic' Agreement

TA0405155194 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1505 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo (AA)—Ali Simsek report—Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has said that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement signed in Cairo, the capital of Egypt, today is important for the entire world.

Cetin, who is in Cairo to attend the signing ceremony of the agreement, assessing the agreement said that it will affect the region in many ways.

Stressing that the path taken has no return and that it will lead to peace and stability, Cetin said: This region which allocates all its resources to armament, clashes and war will now, to a great extent, allocate them to the development of the region and the peoples within the framework of cooperation.

Cetin noted that Turkey, which is a democratic and secular country in the region, can make significant contributions to the Middle East which is being restructured.

Pointing out that Turkey maintains good relations with all the regional countries, Cetin expressed satisfaction over the fact that the 45-year old war has ended in peace. He described this day as a 'historic' one.

In an appeal to all the peoples of strife torn regions, Cetin said: No matter how much you fight, every war ends in peace. Let us secure peace before too much blood is spilled.

Pointing out that the agreement signed is just the beginning, Cetin concluded by saying that Syria, Jordan and Lebanon should join the peace process.

Japan's Kakizawa Seeks Official Channels With PLO

OW0405121494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 4 KYODO—Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa called on Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasir 'Arafat on Wednesday [4 May] to open an official channel through which Japanese aid could effectively help establish a Palestinian homeland, Japanese officials said.

Arafat, who helped bring about an agreement whereby his group would lay down its arms in exchange for self-rule for Palestinians, told Kakizawa he will supervise the process of setting up such a channel, the officials said.

The two discussed the issue at a breakfast meeting before the signing of the historic self-rule agreement between 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

The elaborate signing ceremony was attended by Kakizawa, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and other foreign representatives.

'Arafat expressed high expectations for Japanese yen loans to help finance the construction of infrastructure for Gaza and Jericho, from which Israel agreed to pull out its troops for the first time since the 1967 Middle East war.

The two met at the guesthouse for foreign dignitaries attached to the office of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. The Japanese minister flew to Cairo Monday night on a weeklong trip for talks with Middle East leaders and Christopher.

Japanese officials quoted 'Arafat as asking Japanese economic assistance to help transform the occupied land into a prosperous country that could be dubbed the "Singapore of the Middle East."

'Arafat also said he was willing to fly to Tokyo for foreign aid talks, citing such specific fields of infrastructure as communications facilities, ports, airports and water resource facilities, they said.

Meanwhile, Kakizawa issued a statement on the historic self-rule agreement between Israel and the PLO. The statement spelled out Japan's pledge to actively aid Palestinians and Israel's neighboring countries in view of the latest agreement.

The statement also said, "Japan will extend active contributions in such fields as environmental protection, economic development and water resources development under the framework of multilateral talks for peace in the Middle East."

The U.S. has asked Tokyo to expand its economic aid to the occupied territories and neighboring countries to consolidate its fledgling move towards peace.

Meanwhile earlier on Tuesday, Mubarak asked Kakizawa to help step up investment from Japan, the officials said.

Kakizawa praised Egypt for mediating as a peace broker to bring about the signing of the historic self-rule agreement.

Kakizawa apologized for forcing the postponement of Mubarak's planned visit to Japan in mid-April due to political turmoil in Tokyo, where parliamentary business was paralyzed amid a bitter policy row among ruling coalition partners over tax reform and security policies.

Kakizawa Departs Egypt

OW0405135194 Tokyo KYODO in English 1347 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, May 4 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa left Cairo Wednesday [4 May] for Israel after meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat and attending the signing ceremony of a historic agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule for Gaza and Jericho.

After Egypt and Israel, Kakizawa will visit Jordan, Syria and the occupied territories.

PLO Cancels Contracts With Israeli Companies

TA0505092094 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 May 94 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela' and On Levi]

[Text] The PLO has ordered the cancellation of all contractual relationships between Civil Administration bodies in Gaza and Jericho and Israeli companies and public organizations. If this order is followed, the Palestinians in Gaza and Jericho might find themselves cut off from the supply of essential basic services, such as electricity, water, medication, gasoline, food products, and other essential consumption goods.

The Israeli delegation to the talks on civilian issues was notified of the move by Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi, head of the corresponding Palestinian delegation. DAVAR learned this from senior members of the Israeli delegation. The order came as an unpleasant surprise to the Israeli delegation and caused grave concern regarding the immediate future. The Civil Administration had asked to hand over the management of the affairs under its jurisdiction in an orderly manner that would include an overlap and transfer of the services it currently provides to the residents of Gaza and Jericho.

Furthermore, according to the agreements in principle, the Civil Administration system was supposed to be handed over to the Palestinians in its entirety and continue working in its present form. According to the Palestinian development plan, changes in this system were to be made gradually, based on available budgets.

The Israeli delegates proposed that the contracts be canceled in a few months, after the autonomy administration begins operating and is well established, but the Palestinians rejected the proposal. In view of this, all suppliers and companies with which the Civil Administration had contractual relations have been notified that their contracts will be terminated as of 17 May.

The residents of the territories, who know that there are no other sources that can provide the services, were also surprised by the order. In discussions with them, it became apparent that Palestinians from outside the territories who are participating in the talks on civilian issues do not have the slightest idea about how life is run in the territories. For example, the Palestinians from outside the territories did not know that all electrical power in the territories comes from Israel.

The contracts in question provide the legal framework for the establishment of business ties between residents of the territories and Israeli suppliers, through the Civil Administration. The supply of power to Gaza, for example, is based on a contract between the Israel Electric Corporation and the municipalities and local councils in the Gaza Strip, according to which those bodies and not private persons are the "consumers" of the service. If these contracts are terminated before an alternative source of power is found, Gaza will be left without electricity.

It was learned yesterday that, after they realized that it might cause distress in the coming several weeks, members of the Palestinian delegation expressed regret over their decision to cancel the contracts. Nonetheless, the contracts were not renewed and no new ones have been signed.

Arab Countries, Israel Clash During Doha Talks

NC0305171494 Paris AFP in English 1630 GMT 3 May 94

[by Taib Mahjoub]

[Text] Doha, 3 May (AFP)—Israeli and Arab negotiators clashed here Tuesday [3 May] on the first day of talks on Middle East disarmament aimed at halting the spiralling billion-dollar arms race in the region.

More than 40 states, including Israel and most Arab countries, were taking part in three days of multilateral discussions behind closed doors on a draft arms limitation deal for the region.

But trouble flared almost immediately as the Arab and Israeli delegations differed over how the talks should proceed, officials said.

A Western delegate said the head of the Israeli delegation, defence ministry director-general David Ivry, insisted "straight away that the session should adopt the draft, provoking Arab reticence."

An Arab delegate said: "Certain Arab participants, including Saudi Arabia, saw the proposed text as a political statement which has nothing to do with arms limitation."

The text specifies that arms limitation "must in no way come at the expense of one nation or provide advantages to another," and it must be approved "with the unanimous support of all parties concerned."

Under the terms of the 1991 Madrid peace conference which launched the disarmament talks, the draft declaration of principles on disarmament also includes a reference to "a reduction in the arsenals and personnel of the armed forces" in the region.

And it stresses that the Middle East should become an area where "weapons of mass destruction will be eliminated."

UN and EU envoys, as well as representatives of the United States and Russia, the co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process, were also attending the conference in the Qatari capital, held under tight security.

A Western delegate said: "The Arabs believe we must first agree on the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, while the Israelis insist the priority is to establish confidence-building measures in the region."

The Arab countries first want Israel to agree to practical measures on arms control, which should cover Israel's nuclear weapons capability.

Israel has vehemently denied that it possesses nuclear weapons, but Western experts have estimated it probably has up to 200 warheads.

"The fact that a state in the region possesses a nuclear strength perpetuates tension," said Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani.

He urged Israel to submit its nuclear potential to international supervision, and called on it to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Political stability in the region depends on an arms balance between Israel and the Arabs," Al Thani said.

A Western delegate said Israel "considers its technological superiority in defence matters is designed to ensure a balance in the region, as the Arabs have such great advantages in terms of population and territory."

In a bid to narrow Arab-Israeli differences, Western countries have proposed setting up collective structures including a crisis prevention centre to improve understanding and promote cooperation, a delegate said.

Russia has also suggested opening a regional military data bank "to exchange information on the state and position of forces and military manoeuvres in the region," another delegate said.

Ivry is heading a 21-strong team, the first to visit Qatar since the creation of Israel in 1948.

Informal talks between Arab countries and other participants are due to be held Wednesday on the sidelines of the main meeting.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League To Seek Progress on Libya, Yemen

PM0405144294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 94 p 4

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "'Abd-al-Majid: Yemen Could Turn Into Another Somalia"]

[Text] Alexandria—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has warned against turning Yemen into a new Somalia. He urged Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid to work to prevent a further deterioration in conditions in Yemen "and, hence, an unfavorable outcome."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH 'Abd-al-Majid revealed that there is a "wide gap between the Yemeni president and his deputy." He said that "a considerable part of this dispute is personal. The other part is to do with the union and ways of implementing its mechanisms, especially the Armed Forces, which have not been unified. This is the main reason for the clashes that have occurred there." He said that the existence of huge quantities of arms in Yemen threatens conditions there. He expressed his hope that "the two 'Alis will apply reason and respond to Arab endeavors to safeguard Yemeni unity."

'Abd-al-Majid returned to Alexandria the evening of the day before yesterday after a two-day visit to Libya, during which he met with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He also held a series of meetings with a large number of Libyan officials. The meetings dealt with the mechanisms of Arab and Libyan moves to end the Lockerbie problem. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the moves will be conducted through the Security Council member states in order to urge them to accept the League's proposal regarding trying the two suspects at the International Court of Justice in The Hague in

accordance with the rules of Scottish law and by Scottish judges. He added that "solving this problem is not easy, but it is not impossible."

He pointed out that the League's proposal "offers a legal way out for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 731." This "requires a new Security Council resolution on the acceptance of the Arab proposal by the parties to the Libyan-Western crisis."

He pointed out that the League will intensify its moves during the Nonaligned Movement conference to be held in Cairo this month and the African summit meeting to be held in Tunis in June. This move will be parallel with the Libyan move. He said that "Scottish law contains three options with regard to the verdict: guilty, not guilty, or not proven—which offers an opportunity for a fair trial for the defendants."

'Abd-al-Majid described the U.S. and British rejection of the League's proposal "as an unjustifiable position." He stressed the need to avoid stepping up the sanctions against Libya and to adhere to the Arab solution.

AL-HAYAH has learned that 'Abd-al-Majid yesterday began his contacts with the foreign ministers of the Arab seven-man committee entrusted with discussing the Libyan-Western crisis. He briefed them on the results of his talks in Libya.

'Abd-al-Majid renewed his call for eliminating weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. He urged that an Arab summit on water should be held to tackle the problem of its scarcity. He also renewed his call for setting up an Arab court of justice and amending the Arab League charter.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Palestinians 'Optimistic' About State

JN0405182994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 4 May 94

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Faridah al-Shubashi in Cairo on 4 May—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, on this day and after listening to your speech this morning, what do you have to say to your people in the occupied Palestinian territories, those who are optimistic or those who are pessimistic about the agreement?

['Arafat] The first thing I would like to emphasize is that our people are optimistic, our people, the people who forge miracles, the people of martyrs, the people of sacrifices, the people against whom the conspiracy has been since the turn of the century until now [words indistinct] different opinions. However, I do not believe that there are pessimists among our people. This is the people [words indistinct] the Koran describes by saying: In this land are a people of exceeding strength [Koranic verse]

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, are you optimistic about the scope of the Palestinian state, God willing?

['Arafat] [Words indistinct] the Palestinian people have actively contributed to building many of the Arab countries. They have contributed to Arab civilization and have largely contributed with their blood, spirit, ideas, muscles, experience, aspirations and [word indistinct] in all the Arab walks of life. I am confident [words indistinct] soon and very soon. Today, we laid the corner stone for the edifice of this Palestinian state. They see it as something far off, and we see it as something near [word indistinct].

[Al-Shubashi] Mr. President, thank you.

Al-Husayni Sees Accord as 1st Step Toward Statehood

TA0405113894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 May 94 p 7

[Report on an interview with Faysal al-Husayni by Roni Shaqed in Jerusalem on 3 May]

[Text] "We are giving birth to a baby today, but it is weak. I love him because he is my child, but I am not pleased," Faysal al-Husayni, who laid the foundations for the peace accord yet was left behind in Jerusalem today, said. Like other Palestinian leaders in the territories, he will watch the signing ceremony on television.

"This is the first step toward a Palestinian state. I would have liked the first step to have been bigger, but it is a start," al-Husayni told YEDI'OT AHARONOT. "I thought we would be able to rule in Gaza and Jericho and tell the Israeli people: Yes, we can be free, build our country, and provide security for our people and yours. It now appears that we are not really being allowed to rule. Details introduced into the agreement take this opportunity away from the Palestinian people. If I must provide security, I require full control.

"The future of Jerusalem also troubles me. The closure harms religious life, and family ties are disrupted. We do not want a new agreement, but we are demanding a return to the previous situation in Jerusalem. I spoke with 'Arafat on the matter and asked him to raise the closure issue in his meeting with Rabin."

I asked him: We spoke in 1988, and you said that one day a Palestinian state would be set up. Did you think this would be the path taken?

"I thought that the process would take much longer. I spoke of 20 years; I thought demography would change the face of things."

How will we promote relations ties now?

"We have to change the Israeli mentality, and our side must see you differently as well. We have to believe in peace."

Sha'th Considers Cairo Agreement 'New Dawn'

BR0505120094 Rome L'UNITA in Italian 5 May 94 p 14

[Interview with Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations, by Umberto De Giovannangeli; place and date not given: "Sha'th Is Happy: 'This Sovereignty Will Not Be a Ghetto'"—first paragraph is L'UNITA introduction]

[Text] Tired but happy, in spite of the dramatic events that lent excitement to the signing ceremony: Such is the impression given by Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian delegation to the Cairo negotiations. "The Hebron massacre, followed by those in 'Afula and Hadera, drastically worsened the situation," Sha'th admits, "but that was just when dialogue proved the winning option: We and the Israelis realized that the only way to defeat the enemies of peace was to force the pace of the negotiations. The agreements are the fruit born of this shared awareness." "We are at the beginning of a journey to freedom. There are still a lot of obstacles to be removed, because 27 years of military occupation have left their mark on every aspect of the life of our community, but now we can look forward with greater optimism: A new dawn is breaking for Palestinians."

[De Giovannangeli] What significance does the PLO attribute to the agreement reached in Cairo?

[Sha'th] It is the beginning of a journey to freedom that will lead to the constitution of a Palestinian state. Not now, of course, but sooner than envisaged even in the Washington agreement. In this respect, in spite of the issues that it still leaves open, the Cairo agreement marks a point of no return.

[De Giovannangeli] On what do you base your optimism?

[Sha'th] In the months following the handshake between Rabin and 'Arafat, the messages coming out of the occupied territories all had a common denominator: Demonstrate, immediately, that peace was not only a signature. Well, even though we are running behind schedule, we can now show that life in the territories really can change. Thousands of Palestinians detained for years in Israeli jails can return to their families, and there will be Palestinian police to ensure peace. In a nutshell, peace begins to take a visible shape. And this can only have a positive impact on the attitudes of Palestinians in the territories.

[De Giovannangeli] You have called it an agreement that paves the way for a future Palestinian state. On what do you base this assessment?

[Sha'th] On a number of factors that, taken together, give the impression of "sovereignty in the making." We will have our airline and the right to fish in Mediterranean waters off the Gaza Strip, where the Israelis have been barring our fishing boats to date. We will have our stamps, an international dialing code different from Israel's, and, above all, identity documents bearing the word "passport." People will begin to see Palestinian harbors, airports, television channels, and economic institutions. Two million people will realize that, for the first time in their lives, they can write the agenda for their own future. We will have full powers over the legislature, over our basic laws, we will be able to decide on our own on the nature of our civic and social life. This is why I refer to a "new dawn" for the Palestinian people. One thing is certain: Jericho and Gaza will not be self-governing ghettos.

[De Giovannangeli] Your talk about a "new dawn," but the Hamas fundamentalists could darken it with further terrorist attacks.

[Sha'th] Creating peace is the best way to curb extremist tendencies; we have succeeded in concluding the first stage of the negotiations in the light of this awareness. Hamas' strength was enhanced by people's disappointment about the lack of visible signs of change. But now things will change, of that I am convinced, and they will change faster and more visibly if the international community gives our efforts to establish peace concrete support. Massive economic, technological, and scientific investment in the territories is essential to strengthen our autonomy and train a new governing class. This is what we now need, not just words of encouragement. As far as Hamas is concerned, I would add that these last few weeks have seen signs of a new readiness to talk on the part of the movement's leaders.

[De Giovannangeli] And what is the PLO's reply?

[Sha'th] The unity of the Palestinian people is a valuable asset and, as such, it must be safeguarded. But from now on, all our energy must be channeled into building up our autonomy and achieving prosperity and freedom in the territories. We have to turn over a new leaf, moving on from fighting against the occupying troops to creating our state. If Hamas intends to share in this project, it is welcome. But should it prejudice the outcome with acts of terrorism, we are ready to use any means to put a stop to it.

[De Giovannangeli] When may we expect to see 'Arafat in the "autonomous territories"?

[Sha'th] It is only a question of weeks, now; it all depends on how long the Israeli withdrawal takes. They are preparing the premises where 'Arafat will have his offices and residence in Jericho. He is due in at the beginning of June, and his arrival will enable us to begin our journey toward our ultimate goal: the Palestinian state.

Qaddumi on Cairo Accord, National Struggle

JN0505102694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1940 GMT 4 May 94

[Telephone interview with PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi by Kamal Tarabayh on 4 May; place not given; from the "Today's Guest" feature—recorded]

[Text] [Tarabayh] Brother Faruq Qaddumi, PLO Political Department chief, good evening.

[Qaddumi] Good evening. Welcome.

[Tarabayh] Brother Abu-al-Lutf [Qaddumi's nom de guerre], the first question that comes to mind is: Why didn't you attend the agreement signing ceremony in Cairo.

[Qaddumi] This has been my position since the very beginning, and it has not changed. It is a position of caution and carefulness because the Palestinian people have not achieved their aspirations. We are now confronting a new challenge. We face a hard test. But we will not give in to despair. We will face these difficulties with confident hearts.

[Tarabayh] You refused to go to Washington when the Declaration of Principles Agreement was signed. But you then made a statement stressing the importance of the Palestinian people's unity. What would you say to Palestinians today?

[Qaddumi] At this important, difficult phase in history, we say the Palestinian national struggle will continue relentlessly....

[Tarabayh, interrupting] ...the armed struggle?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian national struggle, by all means. It will continue relentlessly and its fire will not end. We are fighting for a legitimate cause in order to regain our legitimate rights from an usurping enemy that is supported by strong world powers. Despite this, our people's determination to resist continues and our intifadah inside the occupied territories will remain until the last Israeli soldier leaves our blessed Palestinian soil. We are advocates of peace, but we reject surrender. We believed in the peace process on clear foundations, which have not been realized yet. We were certain about these foundations—the land-for-peace formula—from the very beginning, and we will achieve that goal, God willing, regardless of how long it takes.

[Tarabayh] Abu-al-Lutf, do you think the agreement signed today in Cairo is a step forward or backward on the path of peace?

[Qaddumi] In fact, we are facing difficult options as I have said. We must choose the least of two evils. We can judge what was signed today through experience. I am completely optimistic that our people will continue their national struggle to create the appropriate conditions that will serve their objective in national independence and the creation of their state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

[Tarabayh] There is discussion now about the formation of a Palestinian government with members from inside and outside the occupied territories. Will Abu-al-Lutf join such a government?

[Qaddumi] What kind of government are we talking about, especially since there is nothing complete yet? There is no room for a government. There may be room for leaders or for a national Palestinian authority.

[Tarabayh] As head of the PLO Political Department, were you in full agreement with the other members of the PLO Executive Committee, especially President Yasir 'Arafat, about the agreement signed today?

[Qaddumi] I think brother Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat], as was clear from what we saw on television, was angry and unhappy about what he was presented with. But as I have said, it was an inescapable evil.

[Tarabayh] But why was he unhappy knowing that the signing ceremony was, according to the Palestinian party in particular, preceded by hard, intensive, and lengthy negotiations that covered all aspects?

[Qaddumi] But at the last moment, there were some points the Israelis agreed on initially but then rejected.

[Tarabayh] You are one of the historical leaders of Palestinian national action and you are a founding member of Fatah. On this occasion, on this important occasion, what do you say to the supporters and opposers of the agreement within the Palestinian people?

[Qaddumi] I tell everyone that at this difficult phase we must not transfer our rage to the inside. It should be directed against the Israeli enemy who usurped our land. The fault is not ours, but that of those powerful forces, the Zionist forces that usurped Palestinian land and expelled our people. It is our destiny to stand united to continue this resistance, and to continue the construction in order to create new facts on the ground, without showing any sign of exhaustion. We will not give in to despair. We will continue this march. The march of history, which doomed certain states to collapse, will also doom our enemy to failure. We are hopeful that, through the developments in today's world, we will triumph, God willing.

[Tarabayh] Do you think the agreement signed today is an initial step on the path to establishing the independent Palestinian state?

[Qaddumi] We will discuss the details of this agreement. If there were positive points, then every leader, official, and the rank-and-file must take advantage of this opportunity to buttress all resources so we can continue this struggle until we reach national independence. I am certain we will get there soon.

[Tarabayh] At this moment in particular, where does Abu-al-Lutf stand? How optimistic or pessimistic is Abu-al-Lutf?

[Qaddumi] I have never been a pessimist. I am an optimist by nature. We started this revolution from nothing and generations joined it and excelled in fighting the Israeli enemy. The people were never tired. This is a long march but the signs of victory can, God willing, be seen on the horizon.

[Tarabayh] You undoubtedly remember at these times the brothers and comrades who fell on the path of struggle, particularly Fatah Central Committee members such as Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] and Abu—Iyad [Salah Khalaf] and the other martyrs. Do you have anything to say on this occasion?

[Qddumi] To these heroic martyrs, to the martyrs who fell for the sake of the Palestine cause and for the liberation of Palestine, I say one word: We remain faithful to the pledge. We will continue our struggle until we realize the hope for which they fought and for which we started the revolution together to achieve that noble goal, national independence and sovereignty over our land, regardless of the sacrifices.

[Tarabayh] And to the children of the stone: Are they required today or in the near future to drop the stones and move to other forms?

[Qaddumi] I say to these younger generations: Hold on to the stone until the last Israeli soldier leaves Palestinian soil. Blessed be they, and greetings to them and to all future generations that will build Palestine with their strong arms; and until the occupation is terminated and until we establish the pillars of peace. We are advocates of peace but we reject capitulation. The late Tunisian poet, Abu-al-Qasim, once said: Despite illness and enemies, I will remain like an eagle standing on a lofty summit.

[Tarabayh] Faruq Qaddumi, Abu-al-Lutf, thank you for this interview.

[Qaddumi] Thank you.

Al-Hut Sees More Chance of 'Explosion' Than Peace

NC0505082094 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 May 94

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Shafiq al-Hut by an unidentified correspondent in Beirut on 4 May—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Hut] Although I have not acquainted myself with the details of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, I think it is based on the Israeli interpretation of the Oslo Agreement. This is also what happened with regard to the other agreements, such as that on the crossings, which was signed in Cairo. Perhaps what we and millions of viewers saw today when Yasir 'Arafat refused to sign the agreements and then finally submitted to various pressures and made another concession to ensure the success of the ceremony proves this point. But this does not rule out that the signing of this agreement constitutes a significant move in the sense that the differences over the negotiations will be seen on the ground, in the popular arena. I think there is cause for concern when the implementation takes place according to the Israeli interpretation. The Palestinian Arab people will discover the grave loss suffered by the Palestinian cause as a result of the Oslo Agreement, the basis of all the agreements, including today's agreement.

[Correspondent] What are the prospects for the peace process in the area after the signing of the agreement?

[Al-Hut] My feeling is that we are drawing away from peace more than many people think, especially those who support this process according to the current framework and agreements. The situation of the Palestinian people has not changed. Perhaps it is even worse than before 13 September 1993. There has been no progress on the Lebanese, Syrian, or Jordanian tracks. This means there is still a long way to go. This way is fraught with dangers. I see the possibilities for an explosion are perhaps greater than the possibilities for peace.

Abu-Sharif on Gaza-Jericho, Hamas, Restructuring

JN0405112394 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 3 May 94 pp 1, 17

[By Akram al-Khatib]

[Text] Bassam Abu-Sharif, one of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's advisers, has said he believes the Israeli military will complete its withdrawal from the territories defined by the Gaza-Jericho First agreement long ahead of schedule.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides had agreed that Israel's withdrawal would take place four months after the signing at the latest.

In statements to AL-ASWAQ here in Amman, Bassam Abu-Sharif said President 'Arafat will likely enter the liberated areas in June, 1994. Speaking on the eve of the signing of the Cairo agreement, Abu-Sharif said preparations for the entry of the Palestinian police, 9000-strong, and the presidential staff and security personnel and bodyguards have been in the making for some time, and these are now ready to take over any minute.

The transition period amounts to more than a secondary stage, according to Abu-Sharif. The first step calls for empowerment of the national authority in Jericho and Gaza, the second for Israeli forces to redeploy in the rest of the West bank nine months after the start of the implementation of the first step.

Abu-Sharif indicated that Jerusalem was excluded from the agreement on the understanding that it will be addressed in the final stage. Procedures for entry to Gaza

and Jericho will be different from those in force now, and the same holds for the rest of the West Bank nine months later.

Abu-Sharif said robust economic relations between the state of Palestine and Arab states is essential if the Palestinians are to tackle the problems that naturally lie ahead, including building an infrastructure and effecting economic development programs. It is impossible for Palestinians in the liberated areas to translate economic programs into realities on the ground without joining hands with Jordan. Relations between the Palestinians and Jordanians are of the sort that exist in one family. Such cooperation should enable the Palestinians to stand up to Israel's covetous plans. The economic agreement signed between Jordan and the PLO a few months ago marks the foundations for building economic structures.

Abu-Sharif said pledges have been made by donor nations to fund key projects. He said there are bilateral agreements between the PLO and the European Union, as well as Arab and foreign countries. The funds committed for the reconstruction effort over the coming three years may be in the order of $5 billion, not counting the money to be invested in the Palestinian economy by private Palestinian and Arab sectors.

He said the widespread feeling of anxiety gripping Palestinians inside and in the diaspora, as well as Arabs around Palestine, is understandable, becuase the near future holds major changes, whose consequences cannot be accurately predicted. I think, though, that coordination and cooperation between the Palestinians and Arabs should be able not only to end the state of anxiety but also to mobilize energies to tackle all the challenges.

Abu-Sharif applauded the recent agreement between Fatah and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], noting that a cardinal rule among the Palestinians is to refrain from the use of violence in resolving their domestic differences. Adherence to this principle is essential if peace and the reconstruction effort are to succeed.

I am confident that all parties will obligate themselves to this rule, not excluding Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement.

Palestinian democracy can accommodate divergent views no matter how far apart they are. But there is no place in Palestinian democracy for the advocates of violence as a means to impose their will on others. I am confident that Hamas is no less patriotic or enlightened than other Palestinians. Hamas will, therefore, play by the rule and deny whoever wants to harm the Palestinian people the chance to do so.

Abu-Sharif said President 'Arafat issued a presidential decree to launch a Palestinian aviation authority a while back. Discussion of practicalities of the project will take place later.

'Arafat Aide Says Agreement Meets Minimum Demands

PM0405164194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 94 p 2

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In his first assessment of the agreement expected to be finally signed in Cairo 4 May, Mamduh Nawfal, President 'Arafat's adviser on security affairs, said that, in the main details, what was agreed represented the maximum the PLO could get in the circumstances but did not fulfill our aspirations and only met minimum Palestinian demands. He added: But in essence, the agreement is considered to be positive. For the first time since the signing of the Washington agreement last September, a timetable has been agreed for implementation. The agreement also allows the emergence of limited authority in the Palestinian areas.

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Tunis, Nawfal summed up the points in the agreement as follows: "In addition to the timetable, the most important achievement was the participation of international forces from six states which are providing aid, for the first time linking Gaza and Jericho with Hebron. The agreement also met Israel's maximum security demands and maximum Palestinian economic demands, in addition to a reasonable level of national sovereignty symbols such as travel documents, an international dialing code, and an independent postal system and stamps."

Sources in Amman and Tunis say that the timetable for the entry of the Palestinian police forces into the areas of limited autonomy is as follows:

"An advance Palestinian exploration and initial arrangements unit consisting of 22-28 Palestinian officers will set up a liaison office with Israeli officers to make preparations to receive the first police force units next Thursday or Friday. It will be followed three days later by a force consisting of 100 officers and policemen. On 22 May, the date set for the completion of the two-week Israeli withdrawal, a force consisting of 6,000 policemen and their families will begin to arrive in Gaza and Jericho, to be followed one week later by 1,000 policemen and their families in addition to 400 technicians and administrative officials to make the necessary arrangements for receiving the Palestian leadership headed by Yasir 'Arafat, who will return as PLO chairman and not in any other capacity, according to the agreement."

As regards prisoners and detainees, the agreement stipulates that "1,000 Palestinian detainees will be released the day the agreement is signed, 4 May, and 500 detainees a day later. After the completion of the withdrawal of the Israeli Army, 2,000 prisoners serving long sentences, from all Palestinian organizations, will be released. More negotiations will begin 13 July for the gradual release of the remaining detainees, starting with the release of 2,000 detainees. [no closing quotation mark]

According to Palestinian sources, the agreement stipulates that the detainees who belong to Palestinian opposition factions should give a written undertaking not to carry out "military" operations against the settlements or inside Israel, and to support the new Palestinian authority and respect the laws within its boundaries. On the economic front, the Palestinian sources said that the most important Israeli concession was exemption from tax and customs duties for the list of commodities submitted by the Palestinians and linked to the infrastructure. That list is subject to the requirements and assessments of the Palestinian authority on a free import basis. Another point is related to Palestinian employment and regulations organizing that inside Israel. The agreement stipulates that the Palestinian authority will supervise the employment regulations in agreement with the Israeli Government.

Another point is the acceptance of the shekel as a main currency, not the official currency, in circulation in the autonomy area.

As regards the area identified as the gray area in the agreement maps, namely the al-Mawasi agricultural area on the Gaza coast, it has been reduced from the 57 square kilometers requested by the Israelis to 36 square kilometers.

The two sides agreed on a compromise solution on the question of "judicial jurisdiction." It was agreed that Israelis and foreign tourists who commit violations in the security area adjacent to the Israeli settlements would be tried in Israeli courts, and that the Palestinian judicial authorities would be kept informed of the investigations; whereas Israelis and tourists who commit violations in the autonomy region would be tried by Palestinian courts.

As regards the disputed issues which have been referred to the 4 May meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat in Cairo, they are related to the Israeli crossing points on the King Husayn Bridge, Palestinian currency, and territorial waters. Negotiations between the two sides will continue in Cairo until the day after tomorrow, when a preparatory meeting will be held between Rabin and 'Arafat to pave the way for the signing the following day, in the hope that the obstacles and disputed details will have been resolved by then.

The Palestinian sources added that the agreement, which runs to 85 pages, also stipulates that the Palestine National Council will hold an emergency meeting in the limited autonomy region in which the Palestinian national charter will be openly revoked.

Jericho Mayor Interviewed on Cairo Agreement

NC0505102194 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 5 May 94

[Telephone interview with Jericho Mayor Jamil Khalaf, in Jericho, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz, in Cairo, on 5 May; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] As we begin this dialogue we would like you to give us an idea of the feelings of the Palestinian public, specifically in Jericho, toward the agreement signed in Cairo yesterday.

[Khalaf] The Palestinian people in Jericho were in a state of great joy. They raised flags. The boy scouts beat drums and blew trumpets. The whole Palestinian people in Jericho were very joyful.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] How do the Palestinian people view the future?

[Khalaf] This agreement is a historic step after the signing [of the Declaration of Principles] on 13 September 1993 in Washington. This particular step marks the beginning of the first phase in the life of the Palestinian people. For the first time, the Palestinian people will govern themselves through self-rule in Jericho and Gaza. The area is not insignificant. It has a population of approximately 1 million. This is an important and historic step in the life of the Palestinian people. We hope and implore God that it will be a good and constructive step toward establishing peace in the whole region.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Differences centered on the Jericho area. What agreement has been reached regarding the size of the Jericho area?

[Khalaf] There are promises. As we understand it, there is a promise by the U.S. secretary of state. There should be no differences over the border. The important thing is that the self-rule plan in the two areas was signed. This is very important for the Palestinian people. The borders will be in accordance with the agreement and the peace plan signed by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Won't a new phase begin that will require the Palestinian and Israeli sides to deal with each other?

[Khalaf] During the current phase the areas must be opened up so that Palestinian citizens will enjoy a kind of prosperity. In the period preceding the talks the areas were closed. This closure caused great hardship for the Palestinian citizens and a recession in the Palestinian economy. We hope that the means of livelihood will be opened for the Palestinian people so that their economy will thrive. Economy is the most important thing in the people's life. We hope there will be aid and mutual economic cooperation between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Naturally, we need foreign aid from the European Union, the World Bank, the United States, and other foreign and Arab states. Over 27 years the Israeli and Palestinian economies have merged. It is difficult now to separate the Israeli economy from the Palestinian economy. This separation will take much time. But now there are direct trade dealings and contacts between the Israeli and Palestinian economies. It is difficult to stop or reduce these dealings. The Palestinian people must feel there is economic prosperity and an increase in their income.

The Jericho area is an agricultural and tourist area. We must export our goods to other towns, including Israeli towns. We do not have factories or plants. We have agriculture. Jericho is the agricultural capital of the Jordan valley.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Are there preparations in Jericho and the occupied Palestinian territories to receive the Palestinian national authority?

[Khalaf] Yes, we are awaiting the arrival of our Palestinian brothers [from abroad]. We are one family and one people. We are waiting impatiently for the arrival of our brother Palestinians who will take over authority and establish law and order. This is the most important step in our life.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] As we end this dialogue, we thank you. We always welcome you to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Khalaf] I thank President Muhammad Husni Mubarak for his titanic efforts. I also thank the Egyptian people for receiving the Palestinian and Israeli peoples and for their efforts toward establishing peace in the region.

Representative in France Interviewed on Accord

LD0405152394 Paris Europe No. 1 Radio in French 0540 GMT 4 May 94

[Studio interview with Layla Shahid, the Palestinian representative in France, by correspondent Franz-Olivier Giesbert; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Giesbert] Layla Shahid, good morning.

[Shahid] Good morning.

[Giesbert] I guess you are quite thrilled this morning, aren't you?

[Shahid] Certainly.

[Giesbert] Are you thrilled by history in the making?

[Shahid] In any case, it is a historic day. A page which is being turned. [passage omitted]

[Giesbert] Do you feel like thanking Shimon Peres this morning on Europe 1?

[Shahid] Yes, yes, yes. In any case, I would like to pay homage to him because I believe that, of all the men who negotiated, he is the one who had—who has—a vision of Israel in time of peace, Israel after the Cold War, and I hope that it is this particular vision that will prevail, because up against it, there is another military vision of Israel that still exists within the government. We shall see which one will prevail.

[Giesbert] And what do you make of Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister?

[Shahid] I believe that Yitzhak Rabin was brave when he followed Peres' plan to integrate Israel into the Middle East.

[Giesbert] He said what had to be said, didn't he?

[Shahid] Yes, he said what had to be said. I hope he will have the courage to continue because this agreement is now faced with the text that has to be implemented. We must not forget that there are many difficulties remaining. There are 120,000 settlers still there, and Mr. Rabin still insists that they should be kept in the territories even though they are risking their own safety. I believe that there many other tests ahead for Mr. Rabin, and I hope he will continue on the way he has started. It is the only way for his people to survive; that is, in peace with their neighbors.

[Giesbert] You were talking about dangers, Layla Shahid. But who do you actually fear most? Tell us now, without any jargon. Are you more afraid of the hysterical Israeli settlers or the frantic fundamentalists, the religious fanatics of Hamas?

[Shahid] I am afraid of both for different reasons. I am afraid of Palestinian fundamentalists because they support a kind of society I do not support. However, they have everything to gain from peace, namely normal, healthy and free life, and I believe that they will accept the rules of the game, but I am even more afraid of the settlers because they have everything to lose, namely the territory where they live and their special status, and I believe that they will use all possible means to sabotage this peace, but, unfortunately, this is a problem and a duty for the Israeli Government, not for ours.

[Giesbert] A Palestinian transitional government will now manage what we call the Palestinian entity until the general elections. How will those Palestinians chosen for the transition be appointed? Will there be people from the Hamas Movement, for instance?

[Shahid] They will be appointed in a balanced way between inside and outside the occupied territories to start with.

[Giesbert] Do you mean that there will be people from the Hamas Movement?

[Shahid] It is possible, if they agree to be responsible for the administration of this territory, yes, why not. They represent a political strength in Palestinian society. It would be stupid politically to try to marginalize them. We have seen what this led to in a country like Algeria. However, the most important ...

[Giesbert, interrupting] But they will not work towards peace, will they?

[Shahid] That is not obvious. I believe that, in any case, all political forces must be given a chance in a democratic fashion, whether they belong to the right or the left. However, the most important thing is the way the blending between the inside and the outside will take

place. This transitional government will probably be balanced with 50 percent PLO leaders and 50 percent local leaders, and I believe the most important thing is the preparation of the elections, which will take place in the autumn since we have missed the date scheduled for July. People will decide through their votes who they want as their representatives. [passage omitted]

[Giesbert] Layla Shahid, thank you, good luck, have a nice day.

[Shahid] Thank you.

Prisoners, Deportees, Police Arrive in Gaza

JN0405154094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Approximately 700 Palestinian prisoners, released from Qezi'ot prison in the Negev, arrived in the Gaza Strip today within the framework of the agreement that Israel and the PLO signed in Cairo. Another 300 freed prisoners returned to their homes in the West Bank. Our correspondent said all the freed prisoners are Fatah Movement members, except two from the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and two others from the Islamic Jihad. These four prisoners pledged to support the peace march.

Fourteen deportees, most of whom are Fatah Movement members, returned to the territories across the Allenby bridge this afternoon. They were accompanied by 35 of the members of their families. These deportees are expected to join the Palestinian teams that will run the self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Seventeen Palestinian police officers also arrived in Gaza Strip across the Rafah crossing point today. They will join the Palestinian Military Liaison Committee, which will coordinate with the Israeli liaison committee on the issue of transferring some of the Gaza Strip area that the Israeli Defense Army and police will leave, as well as the deployment of the Palestinian police.

IDF Confirms 'Only' 380 Prisoners Freed

TA0405202094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has only released approximately 380 Palestinian prisoners. Approximately 250 freed prisoners arrived in the Gaza Strip and the remainder in Judaea and Samaria. This was reported by Palestinian sources this evening to our correspondent Moti Amir.

The sources claimed that the IDF had presented erroneous figures and misled the media with regard to the exact number prisoners released. Our correspondent notes that IDF sources this evening confirmed that due to last-minute technical problems, less than 400 Palestinian prisoners were released today, and not 1,000 as originally intended.

Police Team Crosses Rafah To View Deployment Areas

NC0405125194 Cairo MENA in Arabic GMT 1000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Al-'Arish, 4 May (MENA)—A delegation from the Palestinian police's Liaison Committee made up of 19 officers led by Brigadier General Ghazi 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Jibali crossed the Rafah border point to explore the Palestinian police's areas of deployment. The delegation members also will coordinate with the Israeli sides on the takeover of sites in Gaza and Jericho, in preparation for the deployment of the Palestinian police as of tomorrow, Thursday.

Approximately 1,000 Palestinian policemen are expected to enter the self-rule areas in the coming hours to start their work in keeping law and order in the territories. Eyewitnesses have affirmed that Israel continues to transfer the Israeli security and army camps to make room for the coming Palestinian policemen. The Palestinians have prepared themselves to receive the self-rule authority with celebrations, marches of support, and Palestinian flags.

In another development, the occupation troops have imposed a security siege on the self-rule areas to prevent Israeli settlers and extremists from entering these areas for fear of confrontation with the Palestinians.

PLO Official Says Dispatch of Police Postponed

JN0405203394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] A PLO official has said that the Palestinian command has postponed the entrance of the police force to the Gaza Strip and the Jericho area until next week for technical reasons dealing with preparing the police force to go there.

In a telephone intervierw with our radio station, the PLO official said that Saudi planes will transport the police members from their locations in Arab countries to the Egyptian city of al-'Arish on the borders with the Gaza Strip and that they will enter from there in full military dress with their weapons and equipment. [passage omitted]

PLO Forces Chief in Algeria Leaves for Cairo, Gaza

LD0405180094 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] The commander of the Palestinian revolution forces in Algeria and member of the PLO higher military council, Brig. Gen Ziyad al-Atrash this morning left Algeria for Cairo where he will join the 25-man group of the higher coordination committee which will be taking over the positions of the Israeli forces in Gaza and Jericho in the framework of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement. [passage omitted]

Self-Rule Begins in Gaza, Jericho With Celebration

NC0405160394 Paris AFP in English 1528 GMT 4 May 94

[By Barry Parker]

[Text] Gaza City, Occupied Gaza Strip, May 4 (AFP)—Autonomy came at last to the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Wednesday [4 May] with the start of a mass prisoner release and the arrival of police top brass to take over from Israel.

"We are starting to take charge from today," PLO brigadier-general Ziyad 'Arif told AFP. "We are starting our real duties as Palestinian police."

"The autonomy agreement is working now," he said after a 19-strong PLO delegation including four generals entered Gaza from Egypt, forming a liaison committee for the security transfer.

Israel and the Palestinians would draw up a takeover timetable on Thursday, following the signing of the self-rule accord in Cairo on Wednesday.

Three of the delegation went by Israeli jeep to the West Bank town of Jericho and the remainder on a tour of Gaza security installations.

An advance party of 1,000 policemen will arrive in Gaza over the weekend, 'Arif said, forming the vanguard of a 9,000-strong force.

In Jericho, hundreds of children threw flowers instead of stones at Israeli troops. They climbed the police station fence and put up Palestinian flags as well as palm leaves.

Youngsters marched through the West Bank oasis of 15,000 people singing patriotic songs, but it all turned sour when police fired tear-gas and rubber bullets after stones were thrown. Four people were treated in hospital.

At Khan Yunus, three masked Palestinians killed an 11-year-old, wounded his father and another relative in a bungled kidnapping attempt.

In Gaza City, dozens of teenagers lobbed rocks at soldiers outside the central jail, as they waited for prisoners to be freed.

The release of 1,000 prisoners on Wednesday began right after Israel and the PLO signed the accord to launch Palestinian self-rule. Four are Islamic fundamentalists, the rest from Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement.

"Peace is wonderful," shouted Umm-Majid Sharif, 55, as the first men stepped off buses to a flag-waving, tabla-beating reception at Nahal Oz crossing into Gaza.

"The war is over between us and Israel," she said. "We want all the prisoners to be freed now the agreement has been signed."

Sharif's son Rami was not freed, but she refused to be discouraged amid the kissing, sobbing and singing as hundreds turned out to give their loved ones a hero's welcome home.

'Adnan Susi, 35, ran into his brother 'Adil's arms and they just hugged for several minutes as the tears flowed.

"I'm crying because I'm so happy. I had two years of a five-year sentence left to do," he said.

PLO official Sufyan Abu-Zaydah said: "More will be released on Thursday and that should make a total of about 2,500 from all the occupied territories."

Under the Cairo deal, another 2,500 are to be freed when the Israelis have completed withdrawal within three weeks. The PLO has demanded that the remaining 5,000 be released, but timetables still have to be negotiated.

All those up for release have to sign a paper pledging support for autonomy.

Israel had let 1,678 prisoners out in several batches since last October in a bid to spur the autonomy talks. However hundreds have also been arrested since then.

It took two attempts for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and 'Arafat to sign their agreement and not surprisingly there was no repeat of the mass celebrations which greeted the September 13 Declaration of Principles.

Tens of thousands poured on to Gaza's streets more than seven months ago. This time they were more cautious.

Shopkeepers hung up flags and a few dozen supporters paraded around on trucks, horns honking, shouting pro-'Arafat slogans.

"I won't believe anything has changed until I see the last Israeli soldiers leave," said 25-year-old Muhammad Balah, a shopkeeper in Shatti refugee camp.

"Officially Fatah is not organizing any celebrations. We leave that to our people on the street to do what they feel," PLO official Rashid Abu-Shibak said.

"May 4 is a unique day in Palestinian history ... our authority will be manifest in our homeland," Fatah said in a statement.

"The Palestinians will be able to live in a freedom that has been denied over so many years by the occupation.

"The historical agreement is the product of a process of struggle by the Palestinians and for which many gave their lives.

"We still have a long and a hard way to go but the achievement so far is a first step for us which requires everybody to be united ... so we can all reach the final stages and establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its eternal capital."

The Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS), vowing to fight on against Israel, declared two days of mourning and urged people to hoist black flags against autonomy.

Few black flags were on view.

Fatah Hawks Express Reservations on Peace Accord

LD0405143694 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] You can imagine that people in Israel followed this morning's events with a lot of attention, concern, and hope. The first Palestinian police officers have arrived in the occupied territories and in Gaza. As for our special correspondents, Isabelle Baechler and Patrick Voigt, they were in the company of Palestinians opposed to this autonomy treaty:

[Baechler] It is 1130 in a house in the Beach Camp district of the town of Gaza. Most of the men watching the historic moment of the signing in Cairo are on the list of terrorists who are most wanted by the Israeli Army. They are Fatah Hawks, the military branch of Yasir 'Arafat's organization. They are a bit sullen, despite the process of autonomy which is under way:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Fatah Hawk, in Arabic, with superimposed French translation] We are happy. We have been waiting for this moment for a long time, but we fear that nothing may come of it. This is not the first time that agreements have been signed, but thus far we have not seen any change.

[Second unidentified Fatah Hawk in Arabic, with superimposed French translation] We are happy, but we are still wanted. Normal people are rejoicing, but we are still in hiding.

[Third unidentified Fatah Hawk in Arabic, with superimposed French translation] All right, they are signing today, but as recently as yesterday the Army erected roadblocks to capture us. [end recording]

[Baechler] The Fatah Hawks will not lay down their weapons until the new Palestinian authorities ask them to do so. What is different for them today is the fact that they feel closer to the new power. The entire population of Gaza is hoping. These 800,000 Palestinians packed together on 375 square kilometers are waiting for signs of sovereignty from their future state. For the time being, nothing has changed. Israeli soldiers are still here, right in the center of Gaza. [passage omitted]

Al-Shaqaqi: Islamic Jihad To 'Reconsider' Gaza Action

PM0405131694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 94 p 6

[Unattributed report: "'Islamic Jihad' Hints at Possible Halt to its Operations in Gaza Strip"]

[Text] Damascus, AL-HAYAH—Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement, has told AL-HAYAH that the signing of the Gaza-Jericho agreement between Israel and the PLO today "prompts us to reconsider the nature of military action" in the Gaza Strip after the self-rule authority's entry. He pointed out that he will work toward increasing the movement's "political effectiveness" while continuing military action in the same manner in the other occupied territories.

Al-Shaqaqi said in Damascus yesterday that "in the event of the Palestinian authority's entry into Gaza, we will reconsider the nature of military action there. But we will continue [military action] in the same manner in the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the 1948 territory." He added that military action will continue, "and we will not suspend it during the reconsideration period. The confrontation methods will be linked to the nature of the Israeli presence in the Strip."

He pointed out that the Jihad Movement does not object to "political moves in the Strip away from the self-rule authority and its institutions. We will push toward the broadest political movement possible, whose motive power is the jihad."

On the nature of the future relationship with Fatah and the administrative self-rule authority, al-Shaqaqi said that the "Jihad's" history is closely linked to Fatah.

He added: "There are personal ties between Fatah and Jihad sons. This personal relationship could become a channel through which to solve some of the problems" that may emerge between the two sides.

He pointed out that he has no "desire to fight over power. Nevertheless, the possibility of a confrontation exists. If they judge us because of our jihad against Israel, confrontations would occur between us."

On his opinion of the agreement to be signed today, the Jihad secretary general said that he considers "this day a danger in our history, and (Palestinian President Yasir) 'Arafat has sold his soul for the sake of his body and is trying to sell the Palestinian people's soul in return for their remaining alive politically."

Hamas, Other 'Hardline' Groups Reject Accord

NC0405172694 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 4 Apr 94

[Text] Damascus, May 4 (AFP)—Hardline Palestinian groups opposed to the Middle East peace process condemned the Palestinian self-rule accord signed in Cairo Wednesday [4 May] and vowed to continue the armed stuggle against Israel.

Damascus-based Palestinian groups described PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat as a "traitor" who had "sold out" the Palestinian cause by signing the accord with Israel to launch self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Meanwhile, Palestinian refugees voiced anger and bitterness, saying the agreement ignored them, as it only provided for limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

The PLO's main rival in the occupied territories, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said in a statement here the Palestinian people were "not bound" by the agreement, and Hamas would "continue struggling until all the occupiers leave the occupied territories."

Palestinians in Lebanon's largest refugee camp, 'Ayn al-Hulwah, set tyres ablaze and distributed leaflets denouncing 'Arafat as a traitor.

The Cairo signing marked "the downfall of the traitor ('Arafat) and we all know the fate of traitors," said the leaflets, signed by 10 Syrian-backed Palestinian groups.

Most of Lebanon's refugees came from areas that became part of Israeli territory in 1948 and were not included in the deal.

In Syria's biggest refugee camp, al-Yarmuk near Damascus, Bassam Raja, 35, asked "where is Palestine?" in the deal.

" 'Arafat is just a paper president," he said. "I am a stateless man whose dreams of return have been shattered."

In Jordan, home to most of the Palestinian refugees after the 1967 war, the opinions among Palestinians were less hostile but still marked by reservations.

"The deal is doomed to failure as it does not satisfy the Palestinian aspiration for an independent state," said officials in the al-Husayn camp in Amman, where 12,000 refugees live.

Amman newspapers however expressed hopes that the agreement would mark a new era in Arab history.

Al-Dustur said the deal was "a turning point for the Palestinians, who have paid a heavy price to recover their legitimate national rights."

However, in Damascus al-Ba'th, the newspaper of Syria's ruling party, condemned the deal, saying it "turns Gaza and Jericho into a Zionist protectorate."

Syria, which boycotted the signing ceremony in Cairo, says the agreement is a "separate deal" that violates Arab solidarity.

In Libya, the official news agency JANA said the agreement was "an illusion," and again called on Arabs to "destroy the imperialist and racist entity," a reference to Israel.

Al-Zahhar Terms 4 May 'Black Day' for Palestinians

TA0405141694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 4 May 94 pp 1, 18

[By 'Ala' al-Mashahrawi]

[Excerpt] Gaza—Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar has described the day of the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement as a black day for the Palestinian people and a day of mourning and grief to all those who love Jerusalem and Palestine and are aware of the nature of the conflict on this land.

In his statement to AL-QUDS, Dr. al-Zahhar stressed the Islamic Movement's rejection of the agreement that is expected to be signed today in Cairo between 'Arafat and Rabin. He said: History will not stop on this day or on any such event. Muslim history has proved that it has surmounted such days and that the journey of victory might be delayed but it is inevitable and certain.

Al-Zahhar added: Those signing the agreement will bear its results, consequences, and repercussions before God, the people, and history. [passage omitted]

Alliance Meets; Ahmad Jibril Denounces Deal

JN0405192094 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Since 1800 today, the Alliance of Palestinian Forces has been holding an expanded central meeting in the hall of martyr Samir Darwish at the building of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] to study the current political situation, particularly the agreement 'Arafat signed with terrorist Rabin in Cairo today in the presence of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the U.S. secretary of state, and the Russian foreign minister.

Before the meeting, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril made a statement in which he said: Our people were not surprised by what they saw in Cairo when the detailed agreement was signed between 'Arafat and Rabin. What happened is an actual translation of the capitulatory deal 'Arafat accepted in Washington. He added: This is a day of sadness for our people and our Arab and Islamic nation. The agreement completely avoided mentioning Jerusalem, the capital of the Palestinian people, the first of the two qiblahs, and the third holiest mosque. He added that the agreement was also void of the right to repatriation and self-determination and did not mention the large-scale settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ahmad Jibril also said in his statement: The agreement was a total surrender by 'Arafat regarding the security file and the economic file. He said: Today, Our people staged a comprehensive strike in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to the agreement, pointing out that some parties, which support the agreement like Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi and Hanan 'Ashrawi announced that the agreement was a capitulatory one.

Ahmad Jibril also said: We, in the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces, are meeting to assess what happened because there are requirements now, practical requirements on the ground in Gaza and Jericho. He then pointed to statements made by terrorists Rabin and

Peres on 'Arafat's upcoming duty to oppress the intifadah. Ahmad Jibril stressed that the Alliance of the Palestinian Forces will not create battles with the upcoming forces of oppression unless 'Arafat completely insists on clashing with the popular forces. He also asserted that the alliance will continue its jihad and militant program, and that time will prove that 'Arafat is unable to conquer the intifadah which will escalate.

Ahmad Jibril also pointed out that the agreement that 'Arafat signed is much worse that the Camp David accords. He asserted that our people are aware of what happened in Cairo today. He added: We are determined to continue our plans and to deal with the collapse that 'Arafat and his supporters created. We say that the agreement is not bounding for the Palestinian people. Ahmad Jibril added that these agreements are null and that the future will show who is right. He said that this capitulatory agreement 'Arafat signed today will completely fail within three months.

In a similar statement, 'Imad al-'Alami, member of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, said that the agreement is not binding for the Palestinian people, describing it as a poisoned dagger directed at the heart of the Arab and Islamic nation. He asserted that what happened today was not surprising and that the agreement is null and void and will not bind our people. He added that Palestine is not owned by those who sold themselves to the devil, including the 'Arafatist leadership, which disowned our people's revolution, struggle, and all the Islamic and Arab values.

Our people adhere to the firm principles of our Arab and Islamic nation in Palestine and to their full right to every inch of our land, Palestine. He said: We will not tire, and we are not pessimist. We are optimist because the people are steadfast and do not disown the martyrs' blood. Regarding the role of 'Arafat's police, 'Imad al-'Alami said that these police will not silence the sound of bullets which will continue as long as there is a usurped right in Palestine. The Alliance of the Palestinian Forces is still in session.

PFLP Leader Habash Criticizes Agreement

NC0405191494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 94

[Telephone interview with George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by correspondent Muhammad Bishkar "soon after the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli accord"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Habash] It [the Palestinian-Israeli accord] fully undermines the sacrifices and struggle of the Palestinian people over more than 25 years. It undermines the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the resolutions of the national councils, even the UN resolutions that we do not believe achieve all the Palestinian people's demands. This accord has also given up on these resolutions.

Needless to say, the economic accord recently signed in Paris which places not only Palestine, but also the entire Arab region and the Middle East [sentence incomplete as heard] and opens the door to the Arab and Middle East region. This issue also concerns you, I mean Iran. Why? Because this accord opens the door to the entire Middle Eastern region.

DFLP Member: Agreement 'Capitulation Agreement'

JN0405170694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Taysir Khalid, member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] Political Bureau, has said that, by all standards, the agreement between Israel and the PLO is a capitulation agreement. In a statement today, Khalid said that the formula of the agreement and its supplements consecrate the isolation of Jerusalem from the occupied territories, suspend the Palestinian people's right to sovereignty over their territories, and give Israel the right to control crossing points, borders, and foreign security.

He said that the agreement was not presented to the PLO organizations, especially the Palestine National Council, which did not authorize the PLO Executive Committee to sign the agreement. He called on the Palestinian people to unite their ranks and continue resisting the occupation.

PFLP, DFLP Reject Cairo Agreement

JN0405180594 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] said that signing the Israel-PLO agreements in Cairo and in Paris confirms Israel's success in circumventing the implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In a press statement today, the PFLP's official spokesman said that the signing of the agreements enables Israel to consecrate its occupation and illegal measures such as building settlements, confiscating territories, annexing and judaizing Jerusalem, and continuing economic hegemony over the occupied territories.

The PFLP spokesman said that the front is not obligated by the agreements reached and that it will continue to struggle until the Palestinian people's objectives are achieved.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] said that the Cairo agreement, which was signed today, brought to light all the misleading, cheating, and false claims on the nature of self rule in Gaza and Jericho. The DFLP explained that withdrawal has been replaced by redeployment, noting that the presence of settlements was legitimized by the fact that the Oslo team recognized these settlements and agreed to have their security protected by Palestinians.

In a statement distributed today, the DFLP said that the agreement opens the door to normalizing Arab-Israeli relations which threaten the fate of all Arab territories under occupation and the future of the Palestinian people. The statement adds: As the DFLP rejects the agreement and condemns those who signed it, it announces that the agreement is not binding to the Palestinian people and that it will continue its struggle to achieve the Palestinian people's right to liberate their territories from the occupation, to achieve self-determination, and to establish their independent state.

Fatah Dissident in Lebanon Calls 'Arafat Traitor

NC0505073294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 May 94

[Report by Beirut correspondent Muhammad Bishkar]

[Text] Palestinian camps in Lebanon and Syria today observed a general strike to protest the signing of the self-rule agreement between the PLO and the Zionist enemy.

A popular demonstration was staged in the Palestinian camp 'Ayn al-Hulwah in south Lebanon denouncing the agreement and describing the PLO leaders who signed it as traitors.

Munir al-Maqdah, a Fatah Movement dissident in the camp, said Yasir 'Arafat has fallen in the trap and that he is now just a political refugee entrusted with putting down the Palestinian intifadah against occupation.

'Arafat's Wife Boycotts Cairo Signing

PM0405153494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din report: "Suha 'Arafat: I Am Boycotting Cairo Ceremony Because Palestinian Women Are Still in Prison"]

[Text] London—Mrs. Suha 'Arafat has apologized for not responding to an invitation received from the Egyptian Government to attend the ceremony marking the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Cairo today. She told AL-HAYAH that she has apologized to the Egyptian Government for being unable to accept the invitation, "despite her appreciation of the tireless efforts and assistance it offered to achieve progress in connection with the agreement." She attributed her failure to go to Cairo to "reasons related to her refusal to participate in any ceremonies or occasions of this kind while a large number of Palestinian women are still in Israeli jails."

Mrs. 'Arafat expressed her unwillingness to shake hands with or stand beside Mrs. Rabin, who will accompany her husband to the signing ceremony in Cairo today, before all Palestinian women are released from prison.

She said: "I support the president's decisions and stance. But I realize that the normalization process will need time. I do not believe that we will be able to normalize relations quickly amid this large number of psychological barriers which we should surmount."

She added: "A week ago the Israelis sentenced 'Abir Lahidi, a 20-year-old woman, to 20 years in prison. They also demolished her house, ignoring all talk about peace and the agreement. So how can I ignore or forget the suffering or feelings of Palestinian women held in prison, and appear in ceremonies before my people and the world?"

At another level, Mrs. 'Arafat said that she is going to accompany the Palestinian president to South Africa to congratulate President Nelson Mandela on his victory in the elections and to attend his inauguration ceremony.

Algeria

Sifi on Transition, Elections, Release of FIS Leaders

LD0305135294 Rabat MAP in English 1332 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] Algiers, May. 03 (MAP)—Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said his cabinet is contemplating 'with much hope' the establishment of a National Transition Council that will have a legislative task during the transition period. In an interview with Algerian news agency 'APS' and daily 'AL-SHA'B', the Algerian prime minister said the council is an essential body with which the government will be in constant touch and to which it is planning to submit its projected program to get out of the current crisis in the country.

The National Transition Council which will be acting as a parliament during the three-year transition period will be made up of 280 members representing the state, political parties, and nonpolitical organizations. The institution of the council is to take place at the latest three months after the adoption of a transition platform. Several parties, mainly the former single party the National Liberation Front 'FLN' and the Socialist Forces Front 'FFS' have declined to be represented in the Council. Another group of some 30 political organizations said they are ready to sit in the Council.

In the same interview, the head of the Algerian Government said if conditions are met, elections which he described as 'unavoidable' will be held before the expiry of the transition period. For the prime minister, the people have to choose those who will decide their future and conditions for the consultation have to be gathered. 'We are ready from a technical and administrative viewpoint to hold elections', he pointed out.

Meanwhile, Algerian daily 'L'INDEPENDANT, which reappeared on the newstand after a two week-ban, reported Tuesday that the curfew enforced in seven wilayas and extended later to three other central regions will be lifted next June. The paper, which quoted 'reliable sources,' also cited measures to be taken by the government to support the civil peace process in the country. According to the daily, some leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front, including Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj will be 'shortly released'.

Foreign Intelligence Head Reassigned

PM0505102394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 May 94 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Algeria: National Security and Foreign Intelligence Chiefs Replaced in Military Reshuffle"]

[Except] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Three days before the march to be staged in support of the dialogue in Algeria, President Major General Liamine Zeroual yesterday made changes among commanders of the military zones and some senior Army posts.

No information has leaked about the new appointments and changes among commanders of the military zones. The names of the commanders who have been pensioned off are surrounded by complete secrecy. However, a high-level source has revealed to AL-HAYAH that Fadil Saidi, director of foreign intelligence, has been moved to another post and that Gen. Tawfik, chief of the intelligence organs, is still in his post.

The ALGERIAN NEWS AGENCY announced in the afternoon that Mohamed Douadah had been appointed director of national security, replacing Mohamed Tolba, who has been in charge of national security since January 1992. [passage omitted]

'Sources' on Killings of 2 'Prominent' FIS Leaders

PM0305131294 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 May 94 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Algiers: Reports of Shabouti's Death and Makhloufi's Murder"]

[Excerpts] Algiers, AL-HAYAH—Algeria celebrated Labor Day yesterday, days before the big march being prepared for to support the dialogue for which President Liamine Zeroual has called. The announcement of the formation of the Transitional National Assembly (an unelected parliament) has been postponed because of the major parties' refusal to participate in it. [passage omitted]

It seems that Annaba was selected for Labor Day celebrations to indicate that security forces are in control of the situation.

Southeastern areas of the capital witnessed large-scale combing operations yesterday.

Information from various sources indicates that security forces have killed prominent military leaders in the "armed Islamic groups" or the "armed Islamic movement." There are reports of the death of Major General Abdelkader Shabouti in Chelif (west of Algeria). He was the leader of the "armed Islamic movement" belonging to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

AL-HAYAH has learned that Shabouti was in the Orous area suffering from an undisclosed illness. He was moved to west Algeria for treatment. Circles close to the FIS have not confirmed Shabouti's death. Nor have there been any reports that he has been "murdered." However, there are reports in some Algerian circles about his death.

Other information indicates that Said Makhloufi was killed "by mistake" during the recent siege imposed by security forces on Boumerdas. He was holding a coordination meeting between the armed Islamic groups and the armed Islamic movement.

The certain thing is that this information is still in the hands of security men and FIS leaders. It might be announced in the coming weeks. Some sources say the reason for neither confirming nor denying the two FIS leaders' death is to avoid obstructing current preparations for FIS supporters' participation in the 8 May march in support of the dialogue approach. [passage omitted]

13 'Armed Islamists' Killed in 2 Days

LD0405192394 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Thirteen armed Islamists have been killed in two days in Algeria in different operations. This has just been announced by the police. These latest deaths bring to 43 the number of Islamists killed by the security forces since the beginning of May, according to an unofficial estimate.

Foreign Minister Receives Yemeni Ambassador

LD0405205694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Mohamed Salah Dembri, foreign affairs minister, today received at the headquarters of his ministry Qasim 'Askar Jubran, ambassador of the Republic of Yemen in Algeria, upon a request from the latter.

The development of the situation in Yemen and Algeria's good efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis were discussed.

Egypt

Prime Minister Leaves for Amman Meetings

NC0405164194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 4 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and a delegation left Cairo tonight for Amman on a visit of a few days to Jordan during which they will attend the meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Jordanian Committee. The committee will begin its work in Amman tomorrow under the cochairmanship of the Egyptian and Jordanian prime ministers. [passage omitted]

Muslim Brotherhood Denounces PLO-Israel Accord

LD0505101394 Tehran IRNA in English 1936 4 May 94

[Excerpt] Athens, May 4, IRNA—The powerful Islamic group in Egypt 'the Muslim Brotherhood' (Ikhwan al-Muslimun) has denounced the signing of an agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule for Gaza and Jericho in Cairo Wednesday.

"We think those who are doing this are deviated and they are isolated from their people and from the will of their people. We are waiting to see what is going to happen in the future," Ikhwan-spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaybi told IRNA by phone from Cairo.

Al-Hudaybi spoke to IRNA from his hospital bed where he is recovering from an illness. The Muslim Brotherhood, the most powerful Islamic movement in the arab world, is strongly opposed to the so-called Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

2 Security Personnel Members Shot, Wounded

NC0405143194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 May (MENA)—Corporal Nasir Ahmad al-Sayyid and Private Sayyid Hammad Radwan of the Suhaj Security Directorate were hit by bullets fired by unidentified men in Suhaj today. An official security source added that while Corporal al-Sayyid and Private Radwan were walking in Suhaj this morning they spotted two strange men in a cafe in the railway station square. When they tried to check their identities, the two fired their pistols and fled. The corporal was hit in the abdomen by two bullets and the private by one bullet in his right arm. They were immediately taken to the Suhaj General Hospital. Commanders of the Suhaj Security Directorate and public security and investigation officers went to the scene. The security men have sealed off the area and are searching for the criminals and the Public Prosecution Office has begun investigations.

Libya

GPC Reacts to Palestinian-Israeli Self-Rule Accord

LD0405141694 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 May 94

[Statement issued by "source" from the General People's Committee for Unity; place and date not given]

[Text] What is happening these days concerning what is known as the signing of an agreement between the 'Arafat group and the Israelis on limited self-rule in Gaza and Jericho is a form of falsification. The Arab Palestinian people have not been asked its view on this agreement, and therefore what has been signed is binding only to the signatories who have relinquished the inalienable and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, recognized by all the states of the world through international resolutions adopted at the United Nations, resolutions that affirm the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to all its land.

This insignificant signing is a unilateral solution that gives the Israelis rights to what does not belong to them. It expresses the submission of some Palestinian leaders to the American-Zionist conspiracy aimed at fragmenting the Arab nation and enabling the Zionist enemy, by force, to control the Arab homeland, so that the Israelis may become the foundation of a Middle East

order due to their military might and their weapons of mass destruction that come under no international control.

In addition, the crusading west, which bears rancor against the Arab nation and Muslims, continues to supply the Israelis with the most modern means of destruction, the last of which was the deal on American strategic bomber jets, which can cover the distance from Pakistan in the east to Morocco in the west. Moreover, the Israelis continue their occupation of the Arab lands from Egypt's Umm al-Rashrash [Eilat] to the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

The position of the Arab nation is firm concerning a just and comprehensive peace, which comes down to the return to their countries of origin of the Jews which emigrated to Palestine while fleeing persecution, the return of the Palestinian people to their own land, and establishing a Palestinian democratic state on all the territory of Palestine. This solution is the one that guarantees peace in the region, and spares the Jews the danger of extermination which the west is seeking to secure against them.

The emergence of what is called Israel after World War II, as a result of this war, must be removed, similar to the other arrangements, such as the Berlin Wall and the problem of the people of South Africa.

Political Editor Comments

LD0405124694 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tripoli, 4 May (JANA)—The JANA political editor has commented on Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin, the prime minister of the enemy, the terrorist, signing in Cairo today the document on the implementation of the so-called Gaza-Jericho Agreement.

He said: What should be emphasized first is that Palestine is part of the great Arab homeland which was exposed to foreign settler occupation, and that Zionist Israeli racism, which gave concrete expression to this occupation, is endeavoring to occupy extensive parts of the Arab homeland. This is a fact which is not born of inference, since these Israeli settlers have written it in prominent letters on the door of the so-called Israeli Knesset, in a phrase saying: Your land, O Israel, from the Euphrates to the Nile.

Second, awareness of this fact and of its dangers and dimensions inevitably leads one to say that the security and stability of the region cannot be guaranteed without the removal of this colonial settler racist entity and the establishment of a democratic state in the region, after the return of the invaders to the countries from which they came.

If this is not achieved, the Arab presence in its entirety will be threatened and the survival of all Arabs in their homeland from the ocean to the Gulf will be doubtful. The Arabs will remain in the range of Israeli nuclear bombs and weapons of mass destruction and exposed to destruction by these weapons.

The editor adds that this is a reality that cannot be hidden by persistent acts of deception, pressure, and obliging people signing worthless conventions. All this remains an illusion and a waste of time, and does not resolve the problem. The solution will never be achieved without the return of the Palestinian homeless to their own land, their homes, farms, and shops, the return of the foreigners to their countries of origin, from where they had come, and by removing the threat and danger from the Arab region, which constitute the main element of tension in the region.

If at the present stage the superpowers are making their potentials available to lead the Arabs to recognize falsification, forgery, and lies, all this will remain temporary. Our advice to these superpowers is to bear true historic responsibility in order to secure a genuine solution to the problem by bearing the cost of the return of the Palestinian refugees to their country, Palestine, and the return of the alien jews to their origins. Everything else is an exercise in lies and forgery. If the U.S. Government is serious in seeking a genuine peace it must bear this responsibility.

The editor affirms that neither this generation nor the coming generations of Arabs and Muslims will recognize the right of a settlement-based racist invasion on a single inch of their country, or a single grain of dust, and they will continue to fight until doomsday for their own right.

Morocco

Minister Comments on Palestinian Self-Rule Accord

LD0505104394 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0930 GMT 5 May 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 May, (MAP)—Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, has expressed his belief that the signing of the final agreement on the implementation of Palestinian self-rule signed in Cairo yesterday is a good start toward finding a final solution to the Palestinian issue.

However he said, in a statement to the MOROCCAN NEWS AGENCY before leaving Cairo, that the agreement in itself is insufficient and that it must be followed by other steps until a comprehensive peace is achieved and the rest of the occupied Arab territories are liberated. He added that the world is waiting for a comprehensive solution to all the problems of the Middle East.

Mr. Filali also said he hopes that what was agreed in Cairo yesterday will be implemented because the rapid implementation of the agreement will facilitate the resolution of the other outstanding problems. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Update on Events 4, 5 May; Fighting Reported in Dhamar

Salih, Djibouti Prime Minister Meet

JN0505092694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Djibouti Prime Minister Barkat Hamadou, who conveyed to him a letter from his brother Djibouti President Hassan Gouled. The letter dealt with bilateral relations, issues of interest to both fraternal countries, and developments in our country.

The letter stressed Djibouti's concern for stability in our country and its support of Yemen's unity and democratic policy as well as Djibouti's readiness to make any efforts or offer any good offices to help our country circumvent the challenges imposed by the crisis. The letter pointed out that Yemen's security and stability are of concern to Djibouti and other regional states, led by the Horn of Africa states.

The brother chairman of the Presidential Council voiced great appreciation for the genuine fraternal sentiments and the concern for supporting Yemeni unity, which is a pan-Arab gain for all sons of the Arab nation. He said our country cannot do without the efforts of any of its brethren, including those in Djibouti. The brother chairman pointed to the special Yemeni-Djibouti relations, which are close and historic ones.

The Yemeni News Agency, SABA', has learned that the brother chairman asked the Djibouti prime minister to convey a reply message to his brother President Hassan Gouled. He wished Yemeni-Djibouti relations further progress and prosperity. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anisi, Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, and Djibouti Charge d'affires in Sanaa (Yusuf Omar Da'alah).

Representatives Comment on Events

JN0405134994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The House of Representatives met this morning in a session chaired by Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar. The house reviewed and approved the minutes of the previous session. The people's representatives resumed their discussions of the contents of the report of the House of Representatives' committee in charge of investigating the incidents in the 'Imran region.

During the discussions, the representatives stressed that it is important for the House of Representatives to adopt a serious and responsible position on developments in the country. This is because the current situation requires the House to issue sound decisions that are free of leniency and placation. It was stressed that the Armed and Security Forces should stand alongside Constitutional legitimacy, seek to spare Yemeni blood, withdraw military forces and units stationed in what used to be called the border areas before unity between North and South Yemen was established, and transfer these units so they can undertake the duties of defending national sovereignty and protecting vital targets.

The people's representatives applauded the appeal issued by the chairmanship of the House of Representatives on 3 May to all personnel, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the Armed and Security Forces throughout all camps and positions in the Republic of Yemen. In the statement, the chairmanship noted the need to show wisdom and self-restraint and to reject any conspiracy calling for infighting.

The session lasted for four hours. The House of Representatives will resume its session tomorrow morning.

Council of Ministers Meet

JN0405195394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its periodic session this morning under Muhammad Sa'id al-Attar, deputy prime minister, the minister of industry, and head of the General Investment Authority.

At the outset of the session, the council recited the opening verses of the Koran for the souls of the martyrs of the incidents in 'Imran, including First Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Hasan Makki's bodyguard.

The council discussed the wicked attack on Dr. Hasan Makki. It stressed that the concerned quarters should follow the issue and arrest the rest of the perpetrators and those who cover for them and bring all of them to trial.

Moreover, the council decided to offer full legal care for the families of the three heroic martyrs who were guarding Dr. Makki and to grant the families of those martyrs medals, rank, and appropriate compensation.

The Council of Ministers also reviewed a report on the meeting held by the ministerial committee in charge of following up and facilitating the work of the Military Committee formed by the Council of Ministers and headed by the minister of defense. The Military Committee was delegated to draw a plan to move the military forces from what used to be called the border areas prior to unity between the north and the south in implementation of the first part of the accord document. It was supposed to present this plan during this session. The council agreed to continue with the previous [word indistinct] and to have the Military Committee present a detailed report on the results of its actions.

The council also decided to amend the bill on weight loads presented by the Roads and Bridges General Authority. The council also reviewed a report by the

Ministry of Health on the efforts exerted by the ministry to save and treat the victims of the regrettable incidents in 'Imran.

'Source' Denies Warplane From South Downed

EA0405194194 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] A responsible source at the Defense Ministry has denied a report on 3 May from the REUTER news agency citing a responsible military source that the northern Yemeni forces shot down a southern Yemeni Mig-21 fighter aircraft. The responsible source said the report was totally untrue.

The source also rejected the report of the television's first channel yesterday evening quoting a military spokesman of the Defense Ministry and the leadership of the General Staff of the movement of the 'Abbas, Taysir, and Milhim Brigades toward the former border areas in Shabwah. The source said this report was not only completely untrue but was aimed at obfuscating the continuing military reinforcements of the forces of the ruling family in Sanaa, being provocatively sent to the former border and toward the military units transferred from the southern to the northern governorates after unity, in accordance with the design to pounce on unity and democracy by attacking the active and generous forces standing in the way of the adventurist al-Ahmar family's plan to impose military rule.

Forces From North Attack Southern Camp

NC0405221494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 4 May (MENA)—Fighting broke out tonight in the city of Dhamar, 100 km south of Sanaa, between the Republican Guard forces (northern) and the garrison of the Basahib camp (southern).

An official source at the Yemeni Socialist party [YSP] in Dhamar said that, at about 1930, the Republican Guard Forces attacked the Basahib camp with missiles, artillery, and tanks. Clashes are still taking place in front of the camp with all types of weapons. An electricity station was shelled and the camp's munitions and fuel depots were burned, according to the source.

Meanwhile, a responsible source at the General People's Congress in Sanaa said that the YSP forces in Dhamar fired at Republican Guard camps and that no information is yet available.

Power cuts have taken place in most parts of Sanaa since 2030 tonight.

Defense Ministry Issues Statement

JN0505061194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 5 May 94

[Statement by "source" at the Ministry of Defense and the General Staff Command on the "reckless and adventurous acts carried out by those who call for secession and apostasy in the cities of Dhamar and Aden yesterday;" date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] O sons of our proud Yemeni people, o heroes in the valiant armed and security forces: The forces of apostasy, secession, treachery, and treason are fiercely revealing their rancor and conspiratorial acts against both the homeland's fate and the people's life and achievements by inflaming a comprehensive war targeting the pioneering national establishment, namely, the armed and security forces, with the aim of turning both their destruction and the blood of their sons into a bridge which these forces would cross en route to their lowly and treacherous ambitions and also en route to the ambitions of their masters, who are waylaying the homeland's unity, democracy, pride, and dignity.

These forces have ignited an infernal fire wherever they can. Their hegemony went to the point of issuing the utmost instructions they could give. However, this bridge soon collapsed at the hands of those who chose the trench of defending the homeland, the revolution, unity, and the new life in the Yemen of 22 May. These are the faithful men among the sons of our people and among their valiant Armed Forces, who fulfilled their pledge to God and valiantly sacrificed themselves, so unity would remain brilliant in the homeland, and so democracy would illuminate the darkness of the totalitarian and dictatorial one-party system, and so the people would have the final say because it is derived from God's sayings, and so the dreams of devils would be shattered. These devils sold themselves, their fate, and everything that is dear and sacred in the market of ill wagers, in the face of the will of life, of maintaining democracy, and of raising high the flags of the Republic of Yemen.

To these heroes of our Armed Forces, we say: May you rejoice in the new chapter of pride and glory you are writing everywhere as a great victory. May you rejoice in the homeland and unity. To all those who fell victim to their disease and rancor, we say: History is pouring on you the dust of shame and disgrace, exactly as it poured dust on similar traitors and agents. History is also closing the doors to what you planned and to what your minds and acts sought to achieve. You may face a dark and bad fate.

We tell the deceived ones whose loyalty is still to God, the homeland, and the revolution, and who offered dear sacrifices to protect the achievements of the September and October revolutions: Disregard the instructions of the murderers and executioners and the advocates of secession. Join the honorable trench, the trench of all valiant men and the trench of protecting legitimacy and preserving unity and democracy. This is our inevitable path to achieve all aspirations and hopes. It is our path to heal the wounds of the hearts through the beginning of a new life, in which there is no room for crises and fabricators of crises or those who tried to take dirty money to foil unity and democracy by fabricating crises

and igniting the crime of war and fratricide among the children of the one Yemeni homeland.

We also hail the brave heroes in the army of the revolution, unity, and democracy who are now foiling the conspiracy of secession and raising high the banners of unity. We also hail all officers, NCO's, and soldiers who refused to fall in the quagmire of the conspiracy against unity and democracy and proved that they have cleansed themselves of the filth of the era of the class vindictiveness and the dictatorship of the one party and sided with the people, unity, and constitutional legitimacy. We stress to the people and history that the crime of the ugly war ignited by the malicious persons in the Yemeni Socialist Party, particularly traitor 'Ali Salim al-Bid and his secessionist gang, has clearly exposed the nature of the enemies of the people, revolution, unity, and democracy.

The chance is now available once again to all heroes in our Armed Forces and security agencies in Sa'dah, al-Mahrah, Hadhramaut, Ta'izz, and all parts of the united homeland to join the ranks of all those who hold unity dear in their hearts. They now have the chance to prove once again—with valor, heroism, and with their warm, pure blood—that they can defend the most hallowed value of the people, and to confirm their readiness to offer the dearest sacrifices to ensure that this homeland will remain united and its will unbreakable. They have the chance to confirm the people's democratic choice, upon which the enemies of the people tried to encroach through all devious means for the sake of filthy money and a mad attachment to power.

Here they are today digging their own graves so that they will not remain a source of shame for the homeland and a heavy burden on the new Yemeni life; so that our people will not live again in the eras of suppression, terrorism, and bloodbaths, and the rule of terrorism, suppression, and mass murders of the cream of the Yemeni society; and so that the future of the people and country will not be controlled by that gang of tyrants, murderers, thieves, and criminals, and the madmen of the blind, vindictive theories and false slogans, which will only bring to the people death and suppression and to the homeland fire, destruction, and damage, which they wanted to afflict on everything beautiful in it.

Usage, Transport of Weapons Banned

JN0505061994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0607 GMT 5 May 94

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] An important announcement to all brother citizens: The Interior Ministry would like to inform the brother citizens that carrying weapons around in the capital is strictly prohibited. The ministry will take all measures against violators. Firing is also strictly forbidden. Violators will be legally prosecuted. May God grant us success.

Salih Declares State of Emergency

JN0505064794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0625 GMT 5 May 94

[Unscheduled announcement of "State of Emergency" decree, issued by the Presidency in Sanaa on 5 May]

[Text] Republican decree No. 20 of 1994 declaring a state of emergency:

The chairman of the Presidential Council, taking cognizance of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen and the law on the state of emergency and Law No. 1962 of 1991 on the establishment of the National Defense Council; in view of the eruption of internal sedition in the country due to the rebellion of secessionist elements in the leadership of the Yemeni Socialist Party against the Constitutional legitimacy, and subsequent military actions and the direct threat to the unity of the homeland and the security and stability of the citizens; according to the Council of Minister's presentation and in accordance with the assessment of the National Defense Council on the need to declare a state of emergency; in accordance with the requirements of the supreme national interest; and following the approval of the Presidential Council, decides:

Article 1: A state of emergency shall be declared as of 0800 today, Thursday, 25 Dhi al-Qi'dah, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 May 1994, in all parts of the Republic for 30 days.

Article 2: Based on Article 97 of the Constitution of the Republic of Yemen, this decree shall be presented to the House of Representatives within a period of time not exceeding seven days as of its date.

Article 3: This decree shall be enforced as of the time and date of its issuance. It shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Republic's presidency in Sanaa on 25 Dhi al-Qi'dah, 1414 Hegira, corresponding to 5 May 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council;

Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister

Air Raids Launched Against Sanaa

JN0505070894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0653 GMT 5 May 94

[Unscheduled announcement on statement by "military source" at the Defense Ministry and General Staff Command]

[Text] The forces of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party leadership are continuing their spiteful, aggressive operations against the Armed Forces and Security units as well as the citizens, the sons of our people, using all types of ground and air weapons.

At 0530 [0230 GMT] today, two aircraft belonging to the secessionist gang, which is rebelling against the Constitutional legitimacy, launched air raids on the capital, Sanaa, aiming at vital targets. The antiaircraft defenses intercepted the raiding aircraft and forced them to flee. In the meantime, the gang, which is rebelling against the Constitutional legitimacy sent some aircraft to strafe the al-Hudaydah and Ta'izz airports. The ground defenses forced them to flee without hitting their targets.

The forces of that rebelling gang are continuing their criminal aggression in more than one place in the homeland against the sons of our brave Armed Forces. These criminal forces will reap nothing but loss and defeat, God wiling, so that the Yemeni homeland will continue to be united and prosperous.

U.S. Special Envoy Arrives

NC0505071494 Paris AFP in English 0606 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 5 May (AFP)—Heavy anti-aircraft fire broke out here Thursday as at least two southern Yemeni warplanes flew low over the city, and one of the aircraft may have been brought down, witnesses said.

The firing from the rival northern Yemeni guns lit up the pre-dawn sky for 45 minutes and a large cloud of smoke billowed into the air, they added.

Army vehicles criss-crossed the city and Westerners were advised to stay at home.

A US special envoy, Robert Pelletreau, arrived Wednesday to try to defuse the crisis which is pitting forces from the former North Yemen, loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, against those from the old South Yemen, who back Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The two have been at loggerheads for months and the dispute is threatening to degenerate into a civil war which could split the country only four years after they united.

Clashes between rival army units broke out late Wednesday at Dhamar, south of the capital Sanaa, and in the main southern city Aden.

Northern radio broadcast an urgent message saying "we have done all we could to bring the southerners to their senses and now we must rely on our heroic forces."

Electricity has been cut off in most parts of Sanaa since Wednesday when the fighting broke out in Dhamar, which provides much of the capital's power.

There was also fighting around Aden airport.

Battles last week officially cost 79 lives, although independent sources put the death toll at more than 200.

President Orders Fighting Stopped

NC0505073094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 4 May (MENA)—A military source at the Ministry of Defense in Sanaa has stated that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has issued orders to the Defense Ministry and the General Staff to stop the fighting that broke out earlier in Dhamar, south of Sanaa. He also asked the commander of the Republican Guard Battalion, northern, to halt the fighting unilaterally.

The source accused the Basahib Camp forces, southern, of starting the fighting this evening and charged that influential forces in the Yemeni Socialist Party are embarked on a plan to divide Yemen.

The source accused the same parties of attacking the Central Security personnel in Aden this evening and encircling and shelling their camps with tank artillery.

Plane Shot Down 5 May; Airport 'Normal'

NC0505073894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, 5 May (MENA)—An official Yemeni source has said that an aircraft for the southern forces tried to attack Sanaa airport this morning, but the air defense forces managed to shoot it down.

The source told a MENA correspondent in Sanaa that the situation at the airport is normal.

Government Buildings Attacked in Sanaa

NC0505091294 Paris AFP in English 0811 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Sanaa, May 5 (AFP)—Southern warplanes attacked the government headquarters and the radio and television centre here Thursday, an AFP correspondent reported.

Anti-aircraft guns blazed into action and it was not immediately known if the planes hit their targets, the correspondent added.

Witnesses also reported that a southern aircraft may have been shot down over Sanaa just before dawn.

Airports in the towns of Ta'izz in the south and in al-Hudaydah in the west also came under attack Thursday from southern planes but were not hit, the defence ministry said in a statement.

President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih declared a 30-day state of emergency following the worsening fighting between his supporters from the north and their southern rivals.

Troops were deployed in the deserted streets as army vehicles criss-crossed the city.

House Withdraws Confidence in YSP

JN0505100894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0935 GMT 5 May 94

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, we have received the following:

The House of Representatives held a session this morning under its Speaker Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar to discuss the latest military developments in the country. The House called on all the masses of the Yemeni people to stand by Constitutional legitimacy and rally around the legitimate political leadership under brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces. The House also called on all officers, noncommissioned officers, and personnel of the Armed and Security Forces in the Republic of Yemen to rally around the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces and not to obey orders unless they are issued by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

The House also decided to withdraw confidence in the secessionist elements in the leadership of the [Yemeni] Socialist Party [YSP] for their persistent wrongdoing which reached the extent of raiding the capital Sanaa and the two cities of Ta'izz and al-Hudaydah with aircraft and frightening the inhabitants and disturbing sleeping children. The House of Representatives also ratified the declaration of a state of emergency and authorized the political leadership to issue the necessary decisions to deal with the situation through which the country is passing. The people's deputies also decided to keep the House in open session.

The House has earlier reviewed and ratified the minutes of its previous session.

'Heavy' Gunfire Heard Around Palace

NC0505122194 Paris AFP in English 1214 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Dubai, May 5 (AFP)—Heavy gunfire broke out around the presidential palace early Thursday and rival north and south forces bombed the country's two main airports in Sanaa and Aden.

Diplomatic sources contacted from the United Arab Emirates said a plan to evacuate Western nationals could be put into action in the next few hours amid the worsening crisis.

Official Source Welcomes U.S. Statement

JN0505122794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] An official source at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry has welcomed the statement the U.S. State Department issued yesterday evening on the current developments in our country. The source noted the statement's emphasis on the importance of convening the Constitutional institutions and the return of the official leadership to Sanaa in order to work as one team. He also noted the statement's call for disengaging the units and refraining from the use of force.

The official source expressed Yemen's appreciation of the American interest in preserving unity, democracy, security, and stability in our country and in the need to be guided by Constitutional legitimacy. The source said the American statement goes in the direction of what the legitimate and Constitutional leadership in the Republic of Yemen is proposing on the need to resolve the political crisis by peaceful means and within the framework of the pledge and accord document unanimously endorsed by the Yemeni people.

Kurdish Sources on Captured Chemical Weapons' Parts

PM0505101794 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 May 94 p5

[Report by 'Adnan Husayn: "Kurdish Sources Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The Chemicals Smuggled Into Iraq Came From Iran"]

[Text] London—Iraqi Kurdish sources who wished to remain anonymous have stated that the two trucks loaded with materials used in the manufacture of chemical weapons seized last month by the police of the Kurdish Government in the northern region of Iraq came from Iran.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that the Kurdish drivers of the two trucks admitted that they crossed the border from Iran and intended to drive the two trucks to areas under the control of the Iraqi Government and deliver them to an Iraqi party known to them.

Officials of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], led by Jalal Talabani, said on Saturday that during the night 17-18 April the Kurdish police impounded the two trucks, which were carrying 19 tons of sodium phosphate, which is used in the production of chemical weapons, and mustard gas, and that "the consignment was exported from the PRC and passed through a country neighboring Iraq."

The Kurdish sources said that the two trucks were seized in the area of Darbandikhan, which is only a few kilometers from the Iraqi-Iranian border. They declined to give more details because "the interrogation of the two drivers is not over yet."

Under the second Gulf war cease-fire terms, Iraq is not allowed to produce, import, or use chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons, or long-range missiles or materials used in the manufacture of such missiles.

Two Explosions Reported in Baghdad 1 May

NC0405172394 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] According to Iraqi opposition sources, two big explosions rocked Baghdad last on 1 May. These sources said that the first explosion was caused by a car-bomb near the Olympics Committee building on Filastin Street. After a short while, another explosion occurred in a nearby street. These sources noted that after the blasts, the regime's security agencies cordoned off the area and began an extensive search.

Opposition Radio Reports Attacks on Iraqi Targets

NC0505072794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Kurdistan Bureau of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq stated that on 28 April the Iraqi opposition forces pounded the governorate building, the intelligence directorate headquarters, and the Ba'th Party building in al-Nasiriyah Governorate with mortars, killing or injuring dozens of Iraqi henchmen.

A statement released by the bureau said that the revolutionaries launched an assault on 27 April at an inspection checkpoint belonging to the al-Qurnah security directorate, killing or injuring 25 agents and destroying two armored vehicles. On the same day, the revolutionaries attacked a large force composed of 45 armored vehicles and a large number of infantry men, who were preparing to launch an offensive on [name indistinct] in al-Nasiriyah marshland. They inflicted casualties on the force and prevented it from launching the assault.

The statement said that the Iraqi regime formed two military divisions under Qusayy, the dictator's son, and Muhammad, son of Barzan al-Tikriti. The two divisions' task is to quell any possible popular uprising.

On the Iraqi intelligence acts of terrorism in neighboring countries, the statement said that the regime's intelligence began some time ago to train a group of agents to send them to Iran to carry out acts of terror there.

Talabani Denies Asking European Leaders To Arm Kurds

PM0405134094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 94 p5

[Unattributed report: "Talabani: I Did Not Request Arms From the Europeans"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iraqi Kurdish Leader Jalal Talabani told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that he did not ask the officials in Paris and the other European countries he recently visited to supply the Iraqi Kurds with arms.

He said that his talks with these officials covered a request for assistance in training local Kurdish police forces for maintaining internal security and protecting employees of the United Nations and the relief organizations operating in Iraqi Kurdistan.

He added that French Defense Minister Leotard, British Minister of State at the Foreign Office Douglas Hogg, and Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana "expressed willingness to study that request and inform us of their position later on, and so did the German officials I met with previously."

'Sources' on Efforts To Obtain Military Technology

PM0405125594 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Apr 94 p 4

[Report by Husni Khashabah: "Five Aims of the Iraqi-South African Military Cooperation Program"]

[Text] London—Sources have revealed some aspects of the methods of trickery used by Iraq to obtain the best available military technological secrets, and the exploratory research on the extraction of uranium in southern Iraq. The sources, with whom AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT spoke in European capitals, say that Iraq has sent secret missions to South Africa to achieve the following five main objectives:

1. Purchase of blueprints of a new type of artillery shells not yet produced worldwide. They are the 210-mm giant shells. Dr. Gerald Paul (who was later assassinated) drew up the main design of the shell and the Iraqi branch of Dr. Paul's company coordinated with the company's branch in South Africa for that purpose.

2. Reach agreement with an arms establishment in South Africa to act as intermediary between Iraq and world companies (mainly American and British) for the procurement of extremely advanced equipment for checking missiles after they are filled with explosives. Such missiles include the Scud missiles and heavy artillery shells. British, American, and other companies were not permitted to export such sophisticated devices to a state like Iraq. It should be noted that the effectiveness of missiles and projectiles depends basically on the use of that kind of device. The sources said that Iraq did in fact get some offers through South Africa for the purchase of missile testing equipment.

3. The third aim of the Iraqi contacts with South Africa has been fully achieved. Baghdad has been able to purchase a complete factory for the manufacture of 130-155 mm artillery shells.

4. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the fourth aim has been the training of technicians and engineers. The sources said that quite a few Iraqis have received training in South Africa. Travel from Iraq to Johannesburg via Frankfurt and London was under assumed names. According to the sources, the visas were issued for "the crescent state," the expression used in official correspondence.

5. The fifth aim has been exploratory research on uranium in South Africa [as published]. The sources said that Baghdad had indeed received some offers in this connection.

Communications Minister Notes Switchboard Problems

JN0405140494 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 27 Apr 94 p 7

[Report on interview with Transport and Communications Minister Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad by Ra'd Abu-Kamil: "Continuous Engineering and Technical Efforts To Pinpoint and Solve Telephone Problems"; first five paragraphs are AL-THAWRAH introduction]

[Excerpts] There has been a great deal of talk about the 14 Tammuz (al-Talibiyah) Switchboard, but the reality is different. Exaggerated issues were raised and written about regarding the switchboard after it was rebuilt and put into operation. True, there are some problems with the operation of the switchboard. The communication departments and officials assume responsibility for this. But most of the problems are essentially due to the difficult conditions through which our struggling country is passing, such as the unfair economic embargo imposed on Iraq, which has caused the suspension of all imports. Other problems are due to the subscribers themselves.

Still, communication department officials have not stood with their hands tied. These strugglers have accomplished brilliant creative feats that we highly respect. They represent new technological creativity in very complex fields. The engineers and technicians of the Communications Ministry displayed skills worthy of every Iraqi's pride.

The instructions of struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, on Iraqi prudence and creativity have had a great effect in prompting the strugglers of the Ministry of Transport and Communications to be creative regarding the switchboards and communications equipment in the country. They creatively cannibalized some parts and modified others to help restore most communication systems in the country.

Regarding the 14 Tammuz Switchboard, we heard many complaints after the announcement of the rehabilitation of the switchboard. The general complaint is that there is no dial tone in the phones. Others say telephones are often disrupted.

To learn about this and to learn the truth about the matter, to obtain more practical details on how the switchboard operates, and to learn about the measures taken by the Ministry of Transport and Communications and about the minister's personal interest in the subject, AL-THAWRAH conducted this interview with Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad, Transport and Communications Minister. We also accompanied him on a field tour of the switchboard.

Dr. Ahmad Murtada Ahmad began the interview by saying: The previous switchboard, that is the 14 Tammuz Switchboard, was a crossbar type with a capacity of 20,000 lines. It was commissioned in 1976 and was not expandable. That switchboard, along with several other targets—communication centers, switchboards, and microwave and coaxial stations—came under enemy attack during the unfair 30-state aggression. The switchboard and its annexes were completely destroyed

The minister continued: The switchboard was rebuilt in two phases: first, the switchboard's building was reconstructed; second, an electronic switchboard was constructed in two months and put into operation on 23 November 1993 with a capacity of 27,000 lines and the possibility of further expansion. This electronic switchboard replaced the old switchboard which, as we said,

was totally destroyed. Intensive efforts were made by ministry teams, which worked day and night to reconstruct this switchboard.

I told the minister: Let us begin from this point. How was the switchboard reconstructed and operated?

[Murtada Ahmad] Engineers, technicians, and workers in all departments of the Ministry of Communications launched a struggle campaign to confront the unfair economic conditions facing our struggler country due to the odious blockade. They rolled up their sleeves and, guided by the instructions of struggler leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, turned his instructions on Iraqi prudence and creativity into reality. They relied on repairing and modifying destroyed equipment and adding their own skills in this field. Thus the switchboard was finally installed by an unusual process, due to the lack of proper equipment. This situation resulted in some disruptions during the modification process.

[Abu-Kamil] So, some disruptions occurred during the modification process due to lack of proper equipment. Hence the delay in operating some of the telephone lines?

[Murtada Ahmad] Yes. But there are other reasons that delayed the operation of several other telephone lines, such as faulty cables and wires in the telephone network, which was out of use for more than three years; loss of a great deal of information about subscribers; transferring telephones to new addresses, and faults in the subscribers' own telephone equipment. Despite all that, some 18,750 telephones have been been restored to service.

[Abu-Kamil] You said some unusual processes were used to activate the switchboard, due to the circumstances of the blockade. What are the usual processes followed in operating electronic switchboards and how did you circumvent these processes?

[Murtada Ahmad] The usual processes followed in installing and operating electronic switchboards essentially depend on subjecting new equipment to quality control tests for a period of time to prove they are functioning well before installing them in switchboard centers, in order to forestall any subsequent problems. When we rebuilt the 14 Tammuz Switchboard, we did not have new equipment to use in the switchboard. We also did not have the equipment to carry out quality control tests. We had to resort to other methods, such as obtaining equipment and parts by repairing or modifying damaged or destroyed equipment. This led to the emergence of the problems during the actual operation of the switchboard. The ministry's team of engineers and technicians are making extraordinary efforts to pinpoint and resolve these problems. Efforts are being made to provide better telephone service, despite the circumstances of the blockade and the lack of necessary spare parts. [passage omitted]

After this interview, I accompanied the minister to the 14 Tammuz Switchboard. It was around 2200 hours at night. The visit to the switchboard was not included in the program of my meeting with the minister. However, the minister asked me to accompany him in order to watch the switchboard at work. [passage omitted]

The minister ran through the daily record of complaints from subscribers and checked the number of telephones that were repaired. Then he personally called the telephone users that were actually repaired that day. He selected 10 telephone numbers at random and began calling them to make sure that the repair work had been done. He spoke to subscribers and asked about service in general. After making sure that those telephones had indeed been repaired and restored to service, he met with the employees and issued his instructions on providing the best service to subscribers. The minister checked the work of the switchboard and its employees. He was told employees had worked day and night for several days.

Our visit to the switchboard was on 9 April 1994. On that day, 450 complaints were recorded and 350 of them were dealt with by 2300 hours. [passage omitted]

Rabin Addresses Rally of Supporters Upon Return

TA0405192294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin called on all supporters of the government's policy not to pay heed to those who rejoiced over spilled blood. The bloodshed was not attributable to the peace process but rather the result of false messianic beliefs and the hostility of the other side. The prime minister was speaking at a mass rally in Tel Aviv a short while after his return from Cairo.

Rabin called on his supporters to show more spirit and tell the enemies of peace in Israel that they did not represent the public. The Israeli people want peace and we will achieve it, Yitzhaq Rabin asserted.

Peres on Future of Accord With Palestinians

TA0505064994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 5 May 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Gid'on Zelinger; place not given—live]

[Text] [Zelinger] My first question must refer to what we all saw at yesterday's signing ceremony in Cairo. What did you feel on the stage when 'Arafat pulled his stunt?

[Peres] I felt embarrassment and regret, which is only natural. As you know, however, when something like that happens, you do not have time to get wrapped up in how you feel; all that concerns you is how to get out of it.

[Zelinger] You also looked angry.

[Peres] Justifiably so. Look, after working very hard, our negotiations reached a positive conclusion, we met him halfway, and suddenly the prime minister finds out that he did not sign the maps. That was contrary to everything agreed upon.

[Zelinger] Did you, at any stage, feel that his refusal to sign could make everything go up in smoke?

[Peres] No, I was certain things would work out, and that is why it angered me even more. I knew that nobody, including 'Arafat, had any alternative. It was—to use an understatement—a very unaesthetic act before the entire world.

[Zelinger] Did you also consider what effect that act would have on support for the agreement in Israel?

[Peres] No, we cannot gauge the mood each and every day. In general, I believe that the Israeli public and others will judge the overall picture. I really thought that what we witnessed on television was the birth process: the labor pangs, the blood, and the baby.

[Zelinger] But as Yo'el Marcus asks in today's HA'ARETZ: If that is the birth, what sort of baby will it be? It may have been born with a defect.

[Peres] You have to look not only at the parents but also at the baby. The parents cannot be changed. Still, a new baby was born, a new situation was created, and what I think constantly is: Good God, why did we remain there for 27 years? For what? Why did we have to call up all those reservists, some of whom were wounded and some who even paid with their lives. A nation has to ask itself questions. The question is not how 'Arafat looks, but how we look.

[Zelinger] But beyond the issue of manners and conduct—and I assume that all those on the stage and all those who were watching shared your sense of deep embarrassment—the question is: What other stunts does the man who signed the agreement with us have up his sleeve? Tomorrow he might renege on some other agreement.

[Peres] There is also the other side of the picture. I think that what upset 'Arafat was that nobody from the territories came to the ceremony. We must look at the other side of the picture. He made the decision practically on his own, without any support. He is worried about his condition and his status. I believe, however, that the third and most important partner—reality—will now enter the negotiations. There are hundreds of thousands of people on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, including young, talented, and ambitious people, who did not participate in the negotiations. In fact, the negotiations were conducted by the Palestinian diaspora and not the Palestinian reality in the field. I have no doubt that they will make a decisive contribution which will completely change the character of the agreement.

[Zelinger] Since we are discussing reality, the ink has not yet dried, and the PLO is already asking for a delay in the implementation. Does that not indicate something about the capability of the organization?

[Peres] Yes. They are not yet a government; they are a movement in the diaspora. Do not forget that they do not have institutions like we do. On their side, everything is fragile and tenuous. They cannot operate in an organized way like us. It will take them a very long time before they become realistic and adapt themselves to the demands.

[Zelinger] That, without doubt, will be the test period for the implementation of the agreement....

[Peres, interrupting] There is no test period. The dice have been tossed and the outcome is known. There is no turning back. We will not return to Gaza; Gaza will not return to us, thank God. In the name of thousands of citizens, who now feel a sense of relief, I say to you: Goodbye to Gaza. Anyway, why would we want to run their lives? Let us assume that their lives are not run as we would prefer. It is their lives and not ours; it is their way of running things, not ours.

[Zelinger] Their failure to run their lives will not affect us?

[Peres] They will not fail. Why should they? They will run things as they see fit. Do you think I am impressed by the way all the Arab states are run? Is that a reason for us to get involved? Anyway, the entire world is under tremendous pressure exerted by a political instrument we did not have to take into account before: television and radio. Developments occur as a result of the information flow. A communist brought down communism; an apartheid supporter brought down apartheid; a Peronist brought down Peronism. Who pressured South Africa? The media, the pictures, the information. I think this will also have an impact on the reality in the Middle East. The current political scene in the Middle East is a fog which hides the sunlight, and it will be replaced by completely new relations and rules.

[Zelinger] What would you consider a failure in the implementation of the agreement? What could happen that would indicate to you the failure of the implementation of the accord?

[Peres] I am not built that way. I believe in it, and I believe it will work out. What would pain me most is if there are additional casualties. There is no consolation for us or for them if that occurs.

[Zelinger] Are there any circumstances under which Israel would consider intervening if terrorism continues?

[Peres] Israel intervenes all the time. It is not that Israel did not try to eradicate terrorism. There is no dispute over that, and it will continue to do so in the future. The question is: Can terrorism be uprooted only through countermeasures—clubs, orders, deportations—or by also enlisting the other side to take positive steps that would put an end to people's motivation to commit suicide or attack and murder.

[Zelinger] I asked whether circumstances could crop up—in the Gaza Strip, for example—under which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] would have to intervene with massive power.

[Peres] I refuse to answer that question, because if I answer it, I cast doubt on the trustworthiness of our measures.

[Zelinger] What is the next stage? Should we now deal with the permanent settlement with the Palestinians or negotiations with Syria?

[Peres] There are some things we have to do now with the Palestinians. We promised that in the wake of the present agreement, there would be deliberations on what is called early empowerment [last two words in English] for the Palestinian authority in the areas in Judaea and Samaria. We are referring to five fields, such as health, education, commerce, taxes, but that is still not autonomy. We promised to do that immediately, and we will do what we undertook.

Of course, I would very much like to start with Syria or Jordan. For the time being, Syria's moves—if they can be termed moves at all—are very measured. At the same time, we will continue to examine any crack or opening in order to continue the peace process. I would also very much like to find out what the situation is in Jordan, because there has also been an incomprehensible halt or retreat there. We are not doing anybody any favor and are not serving anybody else. Peace serves us no less than we serve it.

[Zelinger] The prime minister said that Syria holds the key to information about the fate of our POW's and MIA's. Will that be an inviolable condition for signing any agreement?

[Peres] Prior to an agreement, we exert tremendous pressure. If you recall, a U.S. congressional delegation went to Damascus. I know that Clinton and Christopher also spoke about it with al-Asad. We will not give an inch with regard to the fate of the POW's, which is at the top of our agenda when we negotiate peace.

[Zelinger] In the end, there are some Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad detainees among the Palestinian prisoners who were and are being released. Did Israel, therefore, yield on that?

[Peres] Two things are at issue: First, we did not release people whose hands are stained with Jewish blood. Second, the others have to pledge to abandon war and terrorism and to commit themselves to supporting the peace process.

[Zelinger] There are still some unresolved issues, such as the size of Jericho, the Palestinian policeman on the Allenby bridge, etc. The question is whether will Israel give in later in the negotiations with the Palestinians on the size of Jericho.

[Peres] Let us be precise. A map of Jericho was agreed upon. The prime minister added about 6 km, which is about 10 percent of what we agreed to previously. What they asked for is to discuss it further. That is fine, but there is no commitment to give more. That is also the case with the policeman on the bridge. We responded negatively. They asked for permission to hold further talks. We cannot prevent that.

[Zelinger] The question is: Will Israel give in on those points?

[Peres] It does not have to.

[Zelinger] What is your opinion?

[Peres] In my opinion, what we signed is it, and we now have to move on to negotiate the early empowerment.

[Zelinger] To conclude, can you tell us anything concrete about the issue of the Jericho synagogue, which has become a focus of confrontation between demonstrators and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]?

[Peres] Yes, definitely. We said that al-Nabi Musa, a holy site for Muslims, will be under Muslim religious auspices. The synagogue will be under Jewish religious

auspices. I think that in the final analysis, both sides will respect sites that are holy to the believers of both religions.

Japan's Foreign Minister Kakizawa Arrives

OW0405141894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1406 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Jerusalem, May 4 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa arrived in Tel Aviv on Wednesday [4 May] afternoon from Cairo as part of his Middle East trip, which will also take him to Jordan, Syria and the occupied territories.

In Cairo, he met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Leader Yasir 'Arafat and attended the signing ceremony of a historic agreement on limited Palestinian self-rule for Gaza and Jericho.

Pledges $200 Million to Autonomy

TA0505110194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Japan has pledged $200 million to the Palestinian autonomy, which may be extended. This was announced this morning by Japan's Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa after meeting Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni in East Jerusalem. Earlier, he met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Tel Aviv.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent No'omi Segal] Japan has committed $200 million to the Palestinian autonomy, to be spread over the coming two years. Fifty million dollars have already been dispersed. The money was used to buy medical equipment for the Jericho hospital, to pay for the construction of Palestinian police facilities, and other development projects. The Japanese have also invited 70 Palestinians for training in the use of construction machinery.

Japanese Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa announced the aid package after meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Tel Aviv. He praised Rabin on the peace process, noting that he had been in Cairo for the signing ceremony.

Afterwards, Koji Kakizawa held talks in East Jerusalem with Palestinian leader Faysal al-Husayni. Emerging from the meeting, the Japanese foreign minister said he hoped the aid package would be extended and congratulated Israel and the PLO on signing the autonomy accord.

[Kakizawa] I am very pleased to be here at this historical moment. There are still critical issues on both sides—on the Palestinian side and the Israeli side—but we hope that your goodwill and your determination to get peace will solve many, many difficulties, and we hope that you will go forward for stability and peace in this region.

[Segal] Kakizawa continued on to Jericho, becoming the first foreign dignitary to visit since the signing. He will then cross into Jordan via the Allenby bridge and later visit Syria. [end recording]

Minister: Plans for Jericho Bypass Road Ready

TA0405120994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer informed the Knesset today that the planning of the Jericho bypass road has been completed. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that replying to a query from Knesset Member Limor Livnat, Minister Ben-Eli'ezer announced that the Civil Administration has started expropriating lands along the planned road. The tenders will be announced in three days and the works will start within two weeks. The construction and housing minister promised that the road will be completed within three months.

Soldiers Injured, Settlers Arrested in Incidents

TA0505044894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Two soldiers were injured in stone-throwing incidents in the territories yesterday. Near Nabulus, a soldier suffered medium injuries when a military vehicle in which he was traveling came under a hail of stones. He was taken to Beilinson Hospital for treatment. The village of Hawwarah, where the incident took place, is under curfew.

In Jericho, a soldier suffered light injuries when local residents threw stones and bottles at the police station at the center of town.

During the night, dozens of right-wing activists and settlers continued their efforts to try to reach the ancient Jewish synagogue in Jericho. Part of the town has been declared a closed military area. A Qol Yisra'el reporter says soldiers were busy chasing those trying to infiltrate. Several arrests were made.

House Debate on Cairo Peace Accord Prompts Walkout

JN0505092294 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 May 94, pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday [4 May] cut short a regular session at the request of 31 deputies who demanded the House condemn and protest the "humiliation" of the self-rule deal signed in Cairo between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO)

It is not acceptable that the House discuss the draft sales tax law "on this black day, the day of the sale of Palestine," said the deputies in a signed statement, demanding that the House hold a special meeting to discuss the agreement and condemn the "Cairo agreement of humiliation."

But the meeting ended in disarray after most deputies walked out before a special committee assigned with drafting a statement on the issue finished its work. The House did not adopt the statement draft by the committee and it was considered to reflect the views of only those who signed it.

About 20 deputies signed the statement despite efforts by Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies who chased their fellow parliamentarians across the corridors of Palriament to get their signatures. House Speaker Tahir al-Masri did not sign, which condemns the agreement as a "deviation from the commitment to a comprehensive solution and a subjugation to Zionists and American pressures."

The statement also said Jordan, which "did not give up Arab rights despite the pressures and temptations, is not responsible for the concessions (in the Cairo) Agreement."

The IAF deputies, however, criticized the government for attending the signing ceremony of the self-rule accord because that made it "a witness to the sale of Palestine."

"We condemn the agreement and we condemn those who attended the signing ceremony," IAF spokesman Hamzah Masur told the JORDAN TIMES.

Mr. Mansur expressed the IAF's disappointment with the reported change in the government's position regarding attending the signing ceremony, saying "we were saddened by the change."

But Deputy 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabiriti said: "No one can outbid the Jordanian position (on the Palestinian issue) which was manifest in His Majesty King Husayn's recent speech during the celebrations of the completion of the restoration work on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem."

Mr. al-Kabariti said the Jordanian position is in harmony with that of the Jordanian people and the Kingdom's participation in the peace talks was part of a national strategy stemming from the fact that "we have to negotiate so that we will be players and not a playing field."

Deputy Tujan Faysal attributed the failure of the House to adopt the statement condemning the Cairo accord to the unwillingness of some deputies to "anger the government, the United States, Egypt or even (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzaq) Rabin," but other deputies saw in Mrs. Faysal's statement a distortion of the stand of the House.

Most of the 20 deputies who spoke during the meeting were opposed to the agreement and no one has the right to question the position of the lawmakers, said Deputy 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Rawabdah in reaction to Mrs. Faysal's statement.

Parliamentary sources said most of the deputies walked out of the meeting in protest against giving the floor to IAF deputies and other opponents of the agreement while others were excluded.

While some lawmakers said the House failed to adopt the statement due "to outside pressure," others said that the self-rule agreement is a Palestinian affair signed by the representative of the Palestinian people and hence their refusal to sign the statement condemning it.

Mr. al-Kabariti stressed the urgency of formulating a national strategy to counter the negative economic impact of the agreement on Jordan, reiterating rejection of partial deals that could threaten "our economy and our national unity."

Other lawmakers said the "PLO has burnt its bridges with the Palestinians of the diaspora and become subordinate to Israel" by signing the self-rule accord. They echoed Mr. al-Kabariti in saying lawmakers should focus on the impact of the accord on the interests of Jordan.

The House, which cannot discuss the issue during its current sessions because it is constitutionally restricted to the items on the agenda during extraordinary sessions, will hold another meeting today to further discuss whether it will adopt the statement condemning the accord.

Islamic Action Front deputies told the JORDAN TIMES they would try to get the signatures of more than half the members of the legislature on the statement so that it becomes an official document of the House.

But Parliamentary sources expected the IAF to fail in its bid because most of the deputies who walked out on Wednesday's meeting has taken a decision not to show up for Thursday's meeting "in continuation of their protest against not being given the chance to speak."

'Arafat Expected To Visit, To Brief King on Accord

JN0505065694 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 94 pp 32, 29

[Text] Amman—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is expected to visit Jordan in the very near future to offer condolences to His Majesty King Husayn on the death of the mother of all Hashmeites and Jordanians, Her Majesty Queen Zin al-Sharaf.

Informed Palestinian sources have not ruled out the possibility that 'Arafat's visit may start this morning. He will brief His Majesty King Husayn on the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations following the signing of the agreement on Palestinian self rule in Gaza and Jericho. The agreement was signed in Cairo yesterday.

Self-Rule Agreement Seen as 'Important Step'

JN0505123194 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 5 May 94 pp 1, 30

[Editorial: "End of a Round; Beginning of a Phase"]

[Text] Yesterday's signing of the agreement to implement the first stage of the Palestinian transitional self rule constitutes the end of a long round of hard negotiations, conducted over seven months in more than one capital and interspersed with bloody, tragic events. This fact increases the importance of the agreement and raises the stakes on it.

When the implementation of this agreement starts today, the Middle East crisis is expected to enter a new and important turning point, which will in the end lead to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace and the Palestinian people's regaining their legitimate national rights, including their right to full independence and the building of their state on the soil of their homeland, Palestine.

The achievement of that aspired-for goal hinges on two basic conditions. First, Israel must remain committed to it pledges. It must also remain sincere in its peace intentions, especially when moving to the next phase in the self-rule plan. Second, the Palestinian national authority must know how to use this opportunity to prove that the Palestinians are worthy of their right to freedom and independence.

At any rate, and regardless of the importance of the step that is expected to start today—and it is an important step indeed—the desired peace in this part of the world will remain incomplete and under threat unless it is completed on the other fronts of the conflict and unless a parallel progress is made on all the Arab-Israeli tracks, that is, until the achievement of the objectives on the basis of which the Madrid agreement was convened 30 months ago.

We hope the agreement to implement self rule is the start of a new phase in the march of the Palestinian people toward the achievement of their legitimate goals and a step that will be followed by other steps on the path of achieving an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories . We also urge the peace process cosponsors to take advantage of the momentum generated by this agreement to work on achieving parallel progress on all tracks of negotiations and a just and comprehensive peace that can be accepted and protected by future generations.

Israeli-Palestinian Economic Agreement Criticized

Called 'Abrogation' of PLO-Jordan Accord

JN0305135294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 May 94 p 26

["Headlines" column by Fahd al-Fanik: "Israeli-Palestinian Customs Union"]

[Text] The economic agreement between Israel and the PLO signed in Paris on 29 April falls short of the minimum requirements of the economic cooperation accord between Jordan and the PLO. The PLO-Israeli agreement amounts to a unilateral abrogation of the one concluded between Jordan and the PLO.

We may have to await the publication of the full texts and annexes of the Paris agreement, which are said to be lengthy and detailed. The salient points as reported by AFP, however, are sufficient to understand the drift of the agreement.

For some reason or other, the Jordanian Government wants to assess the agreement in a different light. It may be that it does not want to strain relations with the PLO or the sponsors of the agreement. Or it may be that the Jordanian Government does not want to disrupt the peace process or interfere in the Palestinian decision-making process, even if it is at the expense of Jordanian interests.

The Jordanian-Palestinian economic cooperation agreement signed in Amman on 7 January 1994 provides for the Jordanian dinar to be in circulation in the West Bank and Gaza, along with other Arab and foreign currencies. The Paris agreement expressly states the shekel will be legal tender, among other currencies.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement grants Jordan's Central Bank the right to oversee the banking and monetary systems in the West Bank and Gaza during the transition period. The Israeli-Palestinian agreement sanctions the institution of a local monetary agency to fulfill that role. However, the proposed Palestinian monetary agency will be controlled by the Israeli monetary agency.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement envisages increased trade between Jordan and Palestine. Under the Paris agreement, there will be a joint customs authority on the West Bank's border with Jordan and Gaza's border with Egypt, meaning a customs union administered by Israel and incorporating the West Bank and

Gaza. As a consequence, the Palestinian market will continue to be captive to Israeli products, and the Palestinian consumers and investors will continue to be exploited by Israel as they are now under occupation. The only difference will be that, instead of the exploitation taking place under the coercion of occupation, it will now take place with the blessing of the Palestinian side.

As for some Jordanian products being allowed onto the Palestinian market, this will be conditional on prior Israeli approval. Furthermore, only a limited number, with a maximum of $15 million worth, of unimportant Jordanian goods that Israel does not produce will be allowed in annually.

In a nutshell, the Paris economic agreement sacrifices Jordanian and Palestinian interests and confirms the West Bank and Gaza as adjuncts to the Israeli economy, thus detaching the Palestinian economy from the Jordanian economy. It is a unilaterally submissive agreement.

Dispute With PLO Expected To Increase

JN0305132194 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 May 94 p 5

[Article by AL-BILAD's political editor]

[Excerpts] The conclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian economic agreement and Jordan's announcement that it has adopted new measures regulating the residence of West Bankers in Jordan have been among the most prominent events reviving the undeclared state of war between the PLO and Jordan.

Well-informed sources say that Jordan is disturbed by the economic agreement that the PLO signed with Israel because it contains many points that have overlooked the Jordanian role and the economic agreements that should be signed with it while PLO leaders view Jordan's measures on the residency of West Bankers in Jordan as a step to pull the carpet out from under the PLO's feet and a new Jordanian attempt to confirm its authority over the Palestinians.

A ranking Jordanian official believes that mending the Jordanian- Palestinian relationship has become somewhat difficult following the PLO-Israeli economic agreement, which conflicts to some extent with the contents of the agreement on economic understanding between Jordan and the PLO. [passage omitted]

A Palestinian official who declined to be named says that the Palestinians major concern during the formulation of the economic agreement with Israel had been how to wrest some gains that will enable them to build the nucleus of an independent Palestinian economy that would depend on neither the Israelis or the Jordanians.

The official told Al-BILAD that Israel has agreed to the Palestinians right to directly import from Arab and world markets.

The Palestinian official reveals that on his arrival in the occupied territories, President 'Arafat will immediately start building a floating port in Gaza to enable him to import commodities needed by the autonomous region until the Gaza Port is completed in two years.

The PLO's move toward direct import greatly worries Jordan. If it materializes, Jordan will not be the lungs through which the occupied territories will breathe and will not be the place through which all commodities will pass. Thus, Jordan will be deprived of the unique economic relationship which binds it to the West Bank and on which Jordan had wagered much to achieve economic recovery.

While Jordan has such fears, the PLO also has similar apprehensions, particularly with respect to the recent measures on easing restrictions imposed on the West Bankers.

Palestinian officials believe that with its surprise measures Jordan wants to enhance its relations with Palestinians in the occupied territories and reinvigorate them within a legal framework in a manner that will give it historical tutelage over them.

However, Jordanian Interior Minister Salamah Hammad had emphasized that the recent Jordanian measures and the facilities that were given to the West Bankers have no political connotations.

Political observers believe that the recent Jordanian measures would lead to a Palestinian exodus from the territories toward Jordan. Some expect that approximatley 200,000 people will leave.

Observers also believe that this exodus will be accompanied by a transfer of captial from the West Bank to Jordan while the prevailing belief had been that Palestinian capital would move from Jordan to the West Bank.

These observers believe that the rivalry between Jordan and the PLO to win the hearts of Palestinians will exacerbate, particularly since Jordan enjoys a good reputation among some Palestinian leaders.

Palestinian sources told AL-BILAD that President 'Arafat might adopt several measures to tighten his control on the population and to put the Palestinian house in order, such as the closing of the borders with Jordan for a period that could last three months.

In any case, the coming days will reveal the dimensions of the dispute and the war between the PLO and Jordan.

Paris Accord Said To Hurt Country

JN0505111394 Amman THE STAR in English 5-11 May 94, pp 1, 2

["Special to THE STAR" by Ben Wedeman]

[Text] Palestinian and Israeli negotiators took six months to negotiate the economic agreement signed in Paris last Friday [29 April], but it took only a few minutes for observers in Amman to shoot holes in the

accord. The official text of the agreement has been closely guarded, but what has been made public is arousing profound concerns about the agreement's impact on the Jordanian and Palestinian economies.

Jordan has reacted cautiously to the agreement. Jordanian officials insist there is no contradiction between the PLO-Israel economic agreement and the economic accord between Jordan and the PLO signed in January. Nonetheless, Jordan has requested "clarifications" on certain points in the PLO-Israeli agreement and a senior PLO negotiator is expected to meet Jordanian officials in Amman to discuss the agreement.

Opinion of independent observers and analysts, however, is generally against the PLO-Israel economic accord, "This agreement is very bad as far as Jordan is concerned," a political analyst told THE STAR. The analyst, who requested anonymity, noted that the "number one issue" for Jordan is the future of the Jordanian dinar in the West Bank and Gaza. He warned that the PLO-Israel economic agreement will undermine the use of the dinar, leading to a fall in the dinar's value and a sharp depletion of Jordan's hard currency reserves. He also warned that this will further exacerbate Jordan's debt burden. At the same time, he warned, new investment opportunities in the West Bank and Gaza will attract Palestinian capital at Jordan's expense. The short term prospects for the Jordanian economy, he concluded, are not encouraging.

As'ad 'Abd al-Rahman, director of the Shuman Foundation and a self-described "PLO man," expressed hope that the dinar would continue to be the currency of choice in the Occupied Territories, "I hope that the [Palestinian] entity's orientation will be westward, not eastward," he said.

Commenting on the agreement, economist Fahd al-Fanik said the agreement "proves once again that the current negotiations are not between the Israelis and the Palestinians, but rather between the Israelis and themselves. It was Israel which wrote the text [of the agreement], and the Palestinian delegation succeeded at introducing a few simple reservations and limited exceptions."

The agreement, according to al-Fanik, "serves Israel's interests and sacrifices the joint interests of the Jordanians and the Palestinians." It places economic barriers between Palestinians and Jordan, and "prevents them from exchanging goods and services except via Israeli customs" on the bridges linking the West Bank and Jordan.

Critics of the PLO-Israel economic agreement worry the accord has done nothing but win PLO approval for Israeli economic control of the Occupied Territories, at the expense of future Palestinian economic relations with the Arab world in general and Jordan in particular.

"The economic agreement in its entirety puts Israel's economic interests in the forefront," Taysir Khalid of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) told THE STAR. Khalid, who resigned from the PLO Executive committee in protest over the Gaza-Jericho accords, said the economic agreement "subordinates everything to Israeli interests and to the protection of the Israeli market.

Khalid believes the agreement legalizes Israeli exploitation of the Occupied Territories, and thus represents no significant change in itself. "What is new is that the Israeli policy of annexation and integration has been legalized with Palestinian approval," said Khalid. The Palestinian negotiators in Paris, "rather than defending the need to break the two economies apart and to enable the Palestinian economy to develop independently, have accepted Israel's conditions and dictates."

Not all reaction has been negative. While acknowledging the negative impact the agreement will have on Jordan, one analyst told THE STAR Palestinians in the West Bank will benefit from integration into the Israeli economy. "The investment climate in the West Bank, which was near zero, will improve dramatically," he said. He predicted a surge of investment from Palestinians living abroad, and didn't discount the possibility of Israeli investment in the area taking advantage of lower production costs. The more than one billion dollars earmarked by the World Bank for the Palestinian autonomous authority will also help create a positive investment climate.

According to banking expert Yusuf 'Abd al-Haq, the agreement represents the first step in the implementation of the report published by Harvard University earlier this year, entitled "Security Peace in the Middle East; Project on Economic Transition". "This is a clear implementation of the Harvard Unviersity report, which calls for the establishment of open Palestinian-Israeli economic relations, followed by the establishment of relations between the Palestine-Israel market and Jordan, and finally by their integration into Arab markets."

TCC 'Implicitly' Breaking Boycott on Israel

JN2504082394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Apr p 5, 10

[Text] Amman—When the government-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) last week accepted bids for a licence to install and operate a multi-million dollar cellular telephone network in the Kingdom, it implicitly broke the Arab boycott of Israel.

The TCC accepted the bid from a Jordanian firm in partnership with an American company included on the Arab League's boycott list—Motorola.

Motorola, which operates Israel's cellular network and maintains manufacturing facilities there, bid in partnership with the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services Company.

The tender for the project, which is expected to be operational in one year, was open to only Jordanian companies, as stipulated by a new law passed by Parliament last year that allowed local private- sector participation in the provision of telecommunication services.

The tender, however, requires local firms to be associated with foreign companies with proven experience in the field. The qualification and expertise of the foreign operators in running the Global System for Mobiles (GSM) network will be one of the main considerations of the TCC while granting the project. (The local company must enter into a contract with the foreign operator to manage the venture).

"Officially we are only dealing with Jordanian companies, Motorola is not on the table," said Minister of Telecommunications Tariq Suhaymat. "To be fair, we have to look at all the companies and their bids and go through a long evaluation process, there may be other companies on the boycott list," said the minister, who stressed that it was "premature" to discuss the issue since the evaluation process had not reached that stage.

Foreign companies participating in the eight bids, which were unsealed last Tuesday, also included Cable and Wireless of Britain, Telecom Finland, SFR of France and Millicom, Vega and Nynex of the United States.

Motorola, whose local partners include the Housing Bank, the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) the Union Bank for Investments and Mid investment, came first in the bids.

The group's offer was JD 38 million, almost twice that of the second highest bidder. But an extensive evaluation process is carried out before a contract is finally awarded.

"Motorola may not be awarded the project, but the fact that it was allowed to bid means Jordan ignored the Arab boycott at least for this project," said a competitor. "Motorola's high offer may be an attempt to whet the appetite of the government to overlook the boycott."

Companies must pay a licence fee of JD 7 million to the TCC, plus compensation for scrapping the existing mobile telephone system and a minimum 20 per cent annual royalty to the state-owned corporation.

Mr. Suhaymat said: "We have to be very careful and look out for the national interest. We want the best for the country and we want this project. It is a political decision, and a complicated issue."

A Department of Customs clearance is required for all companies that do business in Jordan, including, among other things, a check on whether it is on the boycott list. Motorola appears in the blacklist of the department.

Local private companies dealing with firms on the blacklist are in violation of the Arab League boycott regulations.

In a pre-bid conference with prospective investors, the TCC made it clear, according to one of the participants, the foreign operators involved in the bids should not be on the boycott list.

Jordan insists on maintaining the 43-year-old boycott until a just, lasting and comprehensive peace is achieved. Jordan's official position was again reaffirmed at a March 26 Arab League meeting which ignored American and European pressure to ease the boycott.

Since the Arab League imposed the boycott, any lifting of the embargo should also come through a resolution from the league.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said that lifting the boycott of Israel "prematurely" would be "tantamount to economic suicide" for Jordan.

The GSM project is one of the country's largest ventures, and the second to allow the private sector to enter the telecommunications sector after a radio paging concession granted four years ago. The GSM is seen as essential for Jordan in competing with other countries in the region, especially now that a peace settlement is expected to open borders between the Arab World and Israel.

Motorola, a leading supplier of cellular equipment, recently won a $32 million contract for a 30,000-subscriber GSM system in Kuwait, which relaxed restrictions on blacklisted firms after the Gulf war.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, in a visit to the region in January, said fresh American investment in Jordan depended on removal of trade barriers and the lifting of the secondary boycott that primarily affects U.S. companies. Motorola, one of the largest American companies, was mentioned in this context, according to Amman-based diplomats.

The U.S. Senate earlier this year passed legislation barring U.S. military sales to countries that try to persuade American firms to comply with the Arab boycott against Israel.

The legislation aims at the so-called secondary and tertiary boycott against U.S. firms doing business with Israel. It is illegal for American firms to observe the boycott by providing related documents required by the governments of the importing countries.

The Arab boycott covers three areas in commercial activity—the primary boycott bars the 22 members of the Arab League from direct commercial activity with Israel. Egypt has been exempted since it signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

The secondary boycott, which includes about 10,000 firms, blacklists companies which have a branch, factory or investment in Israel. Firms are regularly put on or struck off the list by the Damascus-based Arab Boycott of Israel Office.

The tertiary boycott targets companies which do business with blacklisted firms in order to avoid being blacklisted themselves.

Officials and diplomats said in private after Mr. Brown's visit that Jordan, coming under U.S. pressure, was adopting case-by-case approach to the secondary and tertiary boycott.

France To Withdraw From Multinational Inspections

JN0505104394 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5-6 May 94, pp 1, 10

[Excerpt] Amman (J.T.)—The French government has decided to stop its participation in the multi-national inspection force which is inspecting al-'Aqabah-bound ships to monitor the implementation of the international embargo imposed on Iraq, Agence France Presse (AFP) Wednesday [4 May] quoted a French foreign ministry spokesman as saying.

The spokesman announced that the decision became active immediately following requests by Jordan to replace naval inspections in with an onshore process.

France, said the spokesman, was the only country which participated continuously in the naval inspection operation alongside the U.S. since they were launched.

The spokesman was quoted by AFP as saying that the decision to quit the force was taken in close coordination with the U.S. and His Majesty King Husayn and U.N. Secretaary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali were informed of it.

Informed sources told the London-based AL-HAYAT newspaper that Canada turned down a U.S. request to replace French naval forces in monitoring the embargo in the Red Sea.

AL-HAYAT quoted the sources, who were not identified, as saying that the Canadian government totally rejected replacing the French forces.

The sources commended the French decision saying it "reflects France's understanding of the Jordanian stand and manifests its desire to narrow the gaps and reconcile international legitimacy as a slogan and international justice in reality."

Jordan, which has announced the suspension of its participation in the Middle East peace process until the siege on the port of al-'Aqabah was lifted, has reached an agreement with the U.S. providing for land-based sanctions verifications by a neutral side.

The French embassy in Amman late Wednesday issued a statement announcing its decision to quit the multinational inspection forces, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Through taking this decision, it said, "France aims to demonstrate its support for Jordan in finding a formula that would help reduce the heavy burdens inflicted upon the Jordanian economy by the naval inspection operations." [passage omitted]

Husayn Interviewed on Various Issues

JN0405185894 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 May 94

['Text' of interview with King Husayn by unidentified AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH correspondent; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] Paris, 4 May (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn has reiterated Jordan's commitment to the peace process. [passage omitted]

Interviewed by the Paris-based magazine AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH, his majesty said that, God willing, Jordan and Jordanians shall keep their heads held high and will never bow, except to God. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the interview:

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] The launching of the Arab-Israeli peace process two years ago has stirred hopes and fears. How do you assess these hopes and fears?

[Husayn] There will inevitably be great hopes to end this tragedy in a way to give all concerned parties, particularly the Palestinian side their rights on their national soil, and consequently to give all sides the chance for a new way of life permeated by stability and tranquility. However, there are fears that the hardheads on both sides will continue to try to abort the possibilities of reaching a solution which satisfies all parties, and which is acceptable to the coming generations so they can live under its canopy and build on it.

Regarding the fears, they are real ones and are represented by the lack of coordination, regardless of signs of coordination from time to time on the Arab level, given the state of inter-Arab affairs we are experiencing in the Greater Arab Homeland, which lessens our chances of attaining the desired settlement.

For example, in the last period, following the bloody Hebron massacre, it became clear that the Israeli authorities should assume their responsibilities now and in the future. All sides will be able to see this in the future. Israel has failed to fulfill its duties, and must, as an occupying power, be held responsible for a string of events, including the burning of the al-Aqsa Mosque, the transgressions on the Christian holy places, and the aggression, more than once, against the Hebron Mosque, ending with the most recent tragedy. This poses the following question: Has Israel fulfilled its duties to protect and safeguard these holy places on the road to reaching a solution that satisfies all parties? In our opinion, there cannot be a solution without tackling the religious mandate which safeguards the rights of the

followers of the three divine religions. Sovereignty over the holy places should only be to God.

As a result of the lack of coordination during the 24 or 36 hours preceding the issuance of the UN Security Council resolution on the Hebron massacre, and as a result of the dialogue among the Palestinian, U.S., and other sides, to which we were not a party, we were not surprised that the resolution was issued the way it was. I tried to do the impossible in the last moments. I tried to hold contacts to achieve something and to focus on the request not to veto the resolution or to abstain, particularly by the United States. If this has to happen, and it has actually happened, then there must be a way by which we obtain an assurance that the United States' policy on Jerusalem will not change, as it changed in the past. In the beginning, the United States considered settlements illegal then these settlements turned into an obstacle to peace, and now we have reached the current situation.

Perhaps, the way this draft resolution or the tragic incident were dealt with include some mistakes. In other words, had we been able to avoid mentioning Jerusalem and instead refer to the Geneva Convention on the protection of citizens under occupation in order to protect the Palestinians in all the territories which were occupied in 1967, we would have found ourselves in a better situation than the one we experienced as a result of the resolution and the U.S. abstention; something which could be interpreted as a change in the U.S. position on Arab demands in Jerusalem.

The only explanation for all this is that it is a result of the lack of coordination at critical, sensitive points and under difficult circumstances. Calling for coordination is apparently meant to provide a kind of cover for progress by this or that Arab side whenever they feel like it.

However, the chief demand for all of us is to have full coordination. So far, we have not been able to achieve this. Naturally, this is not encouraging because Israel is one side while we are several. We have not been able to crystallize a position which reflects the Arab position and its seriousness about reaching a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace acceptable to future generations.

On the other hand, there are great hopes that the world will pay more attention to the need to act regarding the issues we face in order to come up with acceptable solutions that are convincing to the peoples in this region to enable them to obtain what is their right. We hope that the performance will improve in the future to enhance the chances to reach the aspired solutions.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] What are the prospects for the establishment of a Palestinian state? How do you view this state? How do you evaluate the position of the Palestinians inside and outside [the occupied territories] on the future of the region?

[Husayn] I am always hesitant to speak frankly about these issues, fearing what I say might be misconstrued. However, I believe the Palestinian brothers have a chance which they should not miss, regardless of what they are going to achieve. We hope that the first steps regarding the Oslo accord will constitute the beginning and that efforts will continue to implement Security Council Resolution 242 and achieve Palestinian demands on Palestinian national soil. I feel that what the brothers have experienced over the past 26 years and their continuing suffering makes it impossible to imagine that a Palestinian entity would be established unless it is based on democracy and respect for human rights and unless the Palestinian people exercise their right to take part in shaping their future, away from any methods the Arabs have got used to in this part of the world and at this time in the greater homeland. This is the only road that can yield good results for the Palestinians. Consequently, they should contribute to promoting a new pattern, which we here in Jordan insist on proposing to the Arab brothers in our greater homeland, through the exercise of democracy and respecting the human rights and worth of the Arab individual, provided this individual contributes positively to the shaping of his own future.

[Al-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] Does the peace process endanger Jordan, particularly if autonomy leads to a state of instability in the occupied territories which are at the doors of the Kingdom?

[Husayn] I hope no such thing will take place. We hope that the situation in the occupied territories will stabilize when these territories are liberated and that the march will proceed to liberate this land and grant the Palestinians their rights on it.

As for us here in Jordan, our course is to safeguard the unity of the one big family to which we belong from all origins and to have our march proceed on the basis of the national charter, the Constitution, democracy, shura, and the respect for human rights until the circumstances of any member of this family enables him to opt for another course if he finds the road open to him to exercise this right. Until that time, we will remain more than ever cohesive in the face of all eventualities. It is no secret that we are constantly subjected to momentous pressure because we believe in democracy, in shura, and in man and his right to participate in mapping out his future. Some may view this as a threat to them while we view it as the only course to achieve stability and build the Arab force on the pan-Arab level.

On the other hand, threats are being made against this country to subdue it. However, with God's help, this country and its sons will not be subdued and will only bow their heads to God. In my opinion, we are to prepare ourselves for more pressure. We must endure these pressures because what is in the balance is more important than everything else, more important than us, and more important than this stage through which we pass. This is because our responsibility is toward the future, honor, the cause, and toward justice. No party has succeeded in imposing on us something in which we do not believe. We are committed to the peace process and

we want peace, but a peace that can last and under whose canopy all will enjoy a new state of affairs that will be different from what we have experienced over the protracted past.

[Al-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] Jordanian public opinion has not been sufficiently taken into consideration as you repeatedly stated. In your opinion, how will the Jordanians approach peace?

[Husayn] We have a public opinion and it should be consulted and taken into consideration. However, frankly speaking, I believe that we should work more to inform the people about all the facts so that they can form an opinion. We should stop tackling our causes in a pessimistic manner or with the mentality of the fifties. We should be realistic and responsible and at the same time act through the confidence we all have in the soundness of our march and the knowledge we are proceeding in the right direction, taking into account all the realities we and this region are experiencing.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH) How do you view the impact of peace on regional economy, particularly the Jordanian economy, following the signing of an economic agreement between the PLO and Jordan and the signing of other agreements by the PLO, Israel, and Egypt?

[Husayn] As for the economic dimension, there is much talk on the issue of Arab boycott of Israel, for example. We, however, are trying to explain the issue to the world, and we also demand that there be a balance in dealing with that dimension. The question is not one of an Arab boycott of Israel. I believe that the current situation of foreign companies and industries with interests in the region is now different from the previous one. Israel is actually exercising a boycott. Israel is a state that protects its products and exercises a boycott against the Palestinians, the Arabs, and Jordan in particular. All these issues should be treated in an appropriate manner to clear the way for future dealings.

On the other hand, if peace is achieved, it will give the world and us in particular every chance to deal with many persisting issues and will improve the quality of life. There are other persisting issues, foremost of which is water, for example. We want to know what our share of water is. All resources may not be sufficient for all the parties involved; namely, Palestine, Jordan, and Israel. This issue should be dealt with quickly.

Expectations are that water resources available to us in Jordan will not be sufficient in the future; even for household uses within the next few years. So, alternative resources should be sought.

We have to move toward peace in light of the contents of the agenda of bilateral negotiations with Israel—an agenda which was signed by us and the other side and which includes the issue of the occupied Jordanian territories—and without encroaching on the Palestinian rights pertaining to what used to be our responsibilities, until the Palestinian side assumes its responsibilities. When these territories return to Jordan's sovereignty, we can discuss what can be done regarding the Jordan valley beginning from the north, as well as the water issue, in order to find answers to the questions on our rights, the other Arab sides' rights, and the Israeli dimension in this issue.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] Would you please brief us on Jordan's principled position on peace in light of Amman's refusal to sign a peace agreement with Israel before all the outstanding issues are solved. Does Jordan mean bilateral issues alone or all the Arab issues?

[Husayn] All these matters should be dealt with. We have been facing an Arab position. In other words, Jordan was asked to sign a peace treaty and then discuss all these details. This is strange talk. This proposed method applies only to the state of surrender not to the state of making a lasting peace. Therefore, we insist on dealing with all these different issues on the different sides so that peace can crown satisfactory solutions to all these issues. Peace cannot be achieved unless we deal with all issues. I believe that progress is being made on the other tracks. In the final analysis, the goal is a comprehensive solution, which is required to change the image into the new situation, that is, peace in the region.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] How do you view progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, especially after the al-Asad-Clinton meeting and Syria's acceptance, in principle, of signing a peace treaty with Israel?

[Husayn] We are now focusing on bilateral issues. However, we are well aware that the same method of operation is being used on the other tracks. There are issues that affect all of us, such as the question of water. There is also an important dimension of peace that must entail a change in the pattern of people's behavior and the opportunities available to them. This change should mean a new beginning in contrast with what the case has been so far. All of this requires discussion and study. We cannot tell the world: Go ahead and change the situation of man in this part of the world before we address all these issues. Once we do that, we can ask the world to step in and contribute to shaping the future in light of the desired peace.

I believe that the al-Asad-Clinton meeting was useful and very important. There is mutual confidence. This is what I have sensed from President Clinton when I met him and also from the Syrian president as a result of the frank discussion the two presidents had at that meeting. The dialogue is continuing, and this is undoubtedly encouraging and gives us hope that things will proceed in the right direction.

The U.S. President and his administration are coming under pressure. There is also an ongoing battle in the U.S. arena by certain parties which are trying to bring about positions in favor of Israel at this critical stage when we are witnessing serious attempts to achieve a just and lasting peace in this region. What is upsetting about

all of this is that the Arab position is fragmented, unpleasing, and unsatisfactory.

We asked a question at the outset. Was it necessary to involve the question of Jerusalem in Resolution 904 on the Hebron massacre, since it was possible to see a U.S. veto or abstention? Does this signal a change in the U.S. position? In our contacts, we have asked the United States to tell us that its position does not signal a change. However, time will tell whether or not this is the case. If this is the case, then may be there is a flaw in the way we have been collectively addressing the question on the Arab level so far. This portends losses at present and negative effects on Arab interests in general in the future.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] The Yemeni accord document which was signed in Jordan proved that inter-Arab problems can be solved by the Arabs themselves which is contrary to the situation during the Gulf crisis. Does this attempt contain hopes toward improving inter-Arab relations in a more comprehensive way?

[Husayn] It seems that we were blamed when we said we hoped that this would be the beginning of solving inter-Arab problems. On the internal Arab level and within the one family, we may not have reached the desired solution yet. However, I feel that what has been achieved is a great accomplishment because all representatives of the Yemeni people were in Amman when the document was signed.

Therefore, we hope that the Arab public will play its role in maintaining the accord and achieving its objectives.

Unfortunately, we found that directly after the signing of the document, the situation in Yemen was on the verge of a big explosion. We, along with our brothers in the Sultanate of Oman, made a move. I believe that the efforts by the joint military team resulted in removing the specter of bloody clashes. All the evidence shows that these clashes could have taken a tragic form.

Now, what is required of our brothers in Yemen is to prevent the reccurence of such a critical situation, on one hand, and to maintain their unity and continue formulating the new Yemen as they all want this.

In my view, it was always possible to handle inter-Arab problems on the Arab level and within the framework of one family, stemming from a concern over the nation's interest. Are we at the threshold of a new era? I certainly hope so. I will always seek to achieve this with the best of our abilities. However, this requires an equal response and sense of responsibility by all and the realization that this is in the interest of the nation at present and in the future. This is above all other considerations.

I cannot say that I am optimistic, but I can say that this is what the Arab human being wants and that his will should impose itself on this awkward situation the continuation of which is totally unjustified.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] How do you assess the influence of extremist currents in the region, especially those who reject the peace process in the name of Islam?

[Husayn] Extremism does not always reflect a feeling of depression and pain. In my opinion, it could come as a result of the people's continuous suffering and could reflect a loss of confidence in responsible leaderships. In other cases, extremism could reflect an ambition to assume power. For instance, so far we have been ignoring a very serious issue. It is the issue of Afghanistan. At one stage, we, in the Arab and Islamic world, reached a concensus to support our brothers and kinsfolk in Afghanistan in order to remove foreign influence and presence, as well as attempts to cancel the identity of Afghanistan. However, the events currently taking place cannot be satisfactorily explained by anyone in terms of the continuing conflict, infighting, sabotage and the suffering of the Afghan people.

In fact, this is the worst justification for the continuation of such conflicts and massacres of which we hear, but which we have not thus far been able to tackle decisively. We feel that we have a religious responsibility to defend our religion and tolerance in the face of any attempts to distort them, which might come as a result of ignorance, frustration, or despair on the part of the Arab and Islamic side. At the same time, this might take place as a result of other sides' attempts to misunderstand us and, consequently, to offend us, and maybe, to find a new enemy in this world after the collapse of Communism in the former USSR. We beseech Almighty God to save the Arab and Islamic world from dangers, whether coming from outside, or those posed by acting in the name of Islam when Islam has nothing to do with this.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] Jordan was a target of acts of terrorism from inside and outside. One of the Jordanian diplomats was also killed. Why does Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] seek to escalate his war against Jordan, and what is Libya's role in this?

[Husayn] This is not the first time Jordan has been exposed to such criminal attempts and operations, and lost a diplomat of its righteous sons. This organization, which is known as the Abu-Nidal organization, had played a role in such crimes. We cannot jump to conclusions. Investigations are being conducted and measures have been adopted in the Lebanese arena concerning this incident in particular. We are grateful to Lebanon and Syria for the efforts they have thus far exerted to uncover the circumstances surrounding this crime.

In fact I cannot understand how what happened, this time or in the past, could be interpreted as serving the Arab interests in one way or another. Concerning this issue, when we have known all the details, we will contact the Arab brothers who might host this man or his headquarters and discuss the issue with them to see what their answer will be concerning the continuation of such

operations, which, I am very certain, have more than once, served the enemies at the expense of Arab interests and reputations.

[AL-SIYASAH AL-DUWALIYAH] Given the fact that you have been in power for 41 years, how do you view the Arab nation's future, and do you still believe in Arab solidarity and Arab unity and in the possibility of attaining them?

[Husayn] I still believe in them and my faith in Arab solidarity has not wavered. But, at the same time, I feel bitter because I cannot reply to this question in a categorical manner. While I have hopes, I still want to be realistic. As yet, and in these critical and difficult circumstances I cannot say that we have something which we can derscribe as unity, Arab solidarity, cooperation, or coordination even at the minimum level of what is required when viewed against the backdrop of the broader picture. However, contacts with some of our brothers and cooperation with them using all our means and capabilities are under way. We constantly used to emphasize the need to act but in a completely different manner.

In the past, I spoke much about the European experiment and what it has achieved. I have always wished that we in the Arab homeland, being one nation, would achieve some of what they had reached. But, when we make a comparison, we find that we are still behind what the Europeans have achieved in spite of the wars and bloody disputes that have raged among them this century. The time has come for a real Arab resurgence in the Arab homeland, and we ask God to guide us in this direction.

With the opportunities I still have to serve and build and with the future that awaits this country, I will do the impossible to safeguard Jordan's stability, to maintain Jordan as a brilliant flame in the great homeland, and to have it fully pursue its role and duties. This country deserves the best and we will do the impossible so that the pillars will be strong, the bases firm, and the future promising, God willing.

Jordanian-Egyptian Committee Meetings Begin

JN0305172294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 May 94

[Text] A meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian Political Coordination Committee was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today as part of the meetings of the Experts Committee, which is holding its preparatory meetings in Amman.

The Jordanian side was led by Nayif al-Hadid, secretary general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whereas the Egyptian side was led by Ambassador Badr Hammam, assistant foreign minister for Arab affairs. The two sides stressed the importance of enhancing bilateral relations in all fields and on various Arab, regional, and international issues as well as exchanging views on them.

The two sides also reviewed the new Arab and international changes and their impact on the Arab region on various political, economic, and other levels.

Talal al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, received and welcomed the Egyptian delegation. He stressed the deep bilateral ties that contribute to serving the supreme Arab interest.

Egypt's Sadqi Arrives for Meetings

JN0405200194 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 May 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sadqi flew to Amman this evening to attend meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Committee on cooperation. He was greeted by Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali.

The Egyptian prime minister said he hoped the committee meetings would strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

[Begin Sidqi recording] We hope by renewing the meetings, this joint committee, the Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, would strengthen the relations between our two countries for the benefit not only for Egypt or Jordan but for all the Arab people. [end recording]

"News at Ten" asked Prime Minister al-Majali about his impressions following today's signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement in Cairo.

[Begin al-Majali recording] I am a very optimistic man, all my life, so I am not going to change this time, and I think I am still optimistic and I always look forward to the implementation. And what I felt today, there is a real spirit of having honest implementation. [end recording]

Rival Islamic Groups Said Involved in Brawl in Irbid

JN0305141894 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 3 May 94 p 3

[Excerpts] The Hittin Mosque in Irbid last Saturday [30 April] was the scene of a clash between members of the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation and the Muslim Brotherhood. Chains, sharp instruments, bricks, and sticks were all used as weapons. The brawl took place against the backdrop of differences that have built up over the past year and a half. The Society of Repudiation and Renunciation activists sought to settle a score with the Brotherhood members after the evening prayers at the mosque.

Eyewitnesses of the melee, which began inside the mosque and then continued outside, said a member of the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation set upon a member of the Brotherhood as he performed the evening prayers. The latter carried on with his prayers, but once they were completed, a verbal clash developed and degenerated into a scuffle between the two. Members

from the two sides were then drawn into the battle, with the Society of Redemption and Renunciation men employing knives, daggers, and sticks. [passage omitted]

By all accounts, it was the Redemption group that triggered the fight and heightened the tension. Witnesses add that their hostile behavior was premeditated. There was widespread resentment of the way the Society of Redemption and Renunciation adherents sought to rectify the morals of the camp residents whom they accuse of being infidels for their failure to abide by the precepts of the Koran. [passage omitted]

A pious, enlightened young man traced the disagreements between the two sides back a year and a half, to when the Repudiation and Renunciation Society formed in Irbid. The group's members, he said, think the Brotherhood's ideas are moderate and their attitude toward people is too soft. They want the Brotherhood to adopt a sterner attitude toward the government and society. Its adherents have more than once vilified the mufti of Irbid and a number of the city's shaykhs.

The young man maintained that the group was modelled on the faction of the same name that originated in Egypt. They tend to view most people as blasphemous, contending that they do not act by the rules laid down in the Koran. A Muslim who does not abide fully by the Sunnah is, in their eyes, a blasphemer. They routinely hassle revelers at wedding parties, sometimes disrupting such functions. They are also said to be opposed to people wearing wrist watches, and necklaces, as well as trousers and various other articles of clothing.

Meanwhile, security sources speaking to AL-BILAD attributed the mosque brawl to personal reasons. Witnesses, however, report that differences center on rival interpretations of prayers from the perspective of the Koran and Sunnism. The Redemption and Renunciation Society is said by other sources to be scaring children off religious lessons given by Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. Police have apprehended an entire family suspected of membership in Hamas.

Abu-'Adnan, the man who does the calls to prayers for the Hittin Mosque, told AL-BILAD he witnessed the scuffle at close range. It began as verbal abuse before it developed into a clash in which chains, knives and daggers were used. The attack, he maintains, was several days in the making because the chains had been in the mosque before the scuffle happened.

Colonel 'Abdallah 'Ulaymat, the Irbid Police Commissioner, dismissed ideological differences as the cause of the violence, blaming personal differences instead. 'Ulaymat noted that during questioning, the suspects disclaimed affiliation to any Islamic group. The matter is so minor it does not merit a mention in the press, Col. 'Ulaymat asserted.

'Afghan' Terrorists Arrested; International Ties Cited

JN0305170194 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 4 May 94 p 4

["Exclusive" report: "Fresh Arrests Among Jordanian Afghans"]

[Excerpt] The Jordanian security authorities are continuing their campaign of arrests against the ranks of the Jordanian Afghans. The campaign is starting to face strong resistance by some of the elements of these groups, who are using firearms. This unprecedented phenomenon signals an increase in the violence of these groups.

We have learned that the latest arrests have been concentrated in al-Rusayfah and al-Zarqa' towns and the 'Awjan area for the past two weeks. Officers and men, assisted by personnel from the special police force, carried out arrests and apprehended a great number of people from these groups, which are believed to have a connection with attempts to plague Jordan with terrorism.

According to a knowledgeable source, the campaign did not end peacefully. One of the suspects fired at a security officer, wounding him in the leg.

The latest arrests are apparently part of a series of measures to fight the establishment of terrorist organizations in the Kingdom financed from abroad. Jordan is taking rather harsh measures to contain the terrorist groups that have been formed recently.

AL-BILAD has recently noted a number of attempts on the world level, instigated by Israel, as well as other attempts sponsored by Arab businessmen, to brand Jordan with terrorism and implicate Amman in a never ending cycle of terror.

We begin in Denmark where big question marks are raised in connection with a fire at a residence of a Jordanian citizen who was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood and currently resides in Denmark. According to well-informed sources, the Danish police arrested three Egyptians following the fire and investigated the possibility that the suspects are connected to the bombing of the World Trade Center [WTC]. Two of the arrested men were political refugees and the third holds Danish citizenship as well as Egyptian citizenship and currently resides in Denmark.

The three were accused of buying chemicals used to manufacture explosives similar to those used in the WTC bombing. The name of the Jordanian citizens, whose house was set on fire, has not been released. The Danish authorities' arrest of the three Egyptians is construed as having a link with the fire. However, the incident created the impression, encouraged by the United States and Israel, that certain Jordanian nationals are involved in terrorism.

It goes without saying that for U.S. public opinion, the most sensitive act of terrorism is the bombing of the WTC in February of last year. According to Arab sources, active Israeli security bodies in Europe are now trying to invent false connections between Jordanians residing in Europe and Egyptians suspected of belonging to the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah led by Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, currently detained in the United States.

Therefore, Jordan must prepare to confront a media war that is expected to be launched against it from Washington and European capitals on terrorism stories similar to the one we just related.

This war is not isolated from fears by certain Arab sources that the [Israeli intelligence service] Mosad is perhaps carrying out assassination attempts against Hamas members in Jordan. The aim is to create confusion in Jordan and disturb the security of the country and create a new climate of terrorist acts.

In short, Israel is endeavoring to drown Jordan in the maelstrom of terrorism and extremism in two ways: the first is by giving international public opinion the impression that the Jordanians have some sort of connection with acts of terrorism in Europe and the United States; and second, by threatening to carry out terrorist acts in Jordan itself and disturb the stable security conditions in the country.

Meanwhile, secret attempts by Arabs have also been revealed aimed at drowning Jordan in acts of terrorism by financing groups returning from Afghanistan.

As has already been mentioned, the first Arab involved in financing terror in Jordan was the Saudi businessman Usamah Bin- Ladin. Jordanian security investigations have already revealed that one of the leaders of the Jordanian Afghans, Zakariya Muhammad Dawud, traveled to Sanaa and met with Yemeni figures representing the financier, Bin-Ladin, who helped him join training camps.

Bin-Ladin finances large training camps of Arab Afghans, including quite a large number of Jordanians, in Sanaa with the aim of exporting terror to Jordan.

Jordan is exerting immense efforts to apprehend a Saudi merchant and arms smuggler by the name of Nasir Mashhur al-Ruwayli. Al-Ruwayli is considered one of the most dangerous drug traffickers and gun smugglers across Arab borders. He uses drug smuggling in striking arms deals and smuggling these arms to Arab states.

It is feared that this smuggler was involved in supplying weapons to extremist groups to carry out terrorist acts. Members of these groups in Jordan were arrested recently.

According to Arab sources, this smuggler is now charged with smuggling drugs and arms in many Arab states including Yemen, Algeria, and Egypt. [passage omitted]

President, Others Depart for Damascus Summit

NC0505093194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] An expanded Lebanese-Syrian summit is scheduled to be held in Damascus this morning involving President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on the Lebanese side and Syrian President Hafiz 'al-Asad on the Syrian side.

The Lebanese president, speaker, prime minister, and foreign minister left for Damascus at 1000 today.

Before leaving Beirut, President al-Hirawi met U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley and discussed local and regional developments.

Buwayz Reacts to 'Shamefaced' Agreement

NC0405145194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Commenting on the limited self-rule agreement that was signed between the Palestinians and Israelis in Cairo today, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said: We do not believe this agreement fulfills all the ambitions we had for the Palestinian people. This agreement does not spell out clearly the future of these negotiations nor is it committed to recognizing a Palestinian state, political rights, or the human rights of the refugees. He added: proceeding from this premise, we are not among those who are enthusiastic about or applaud this agreement. But since the PLO broke away from Arab solidarity and coordination, which was in its own interests, and since all we wanted from this coordination was to stress our moral obligation to the Palestinian cause, all we can do is to wish the PLO success, despite this agreement's being shamefaced [khajulan] in terms of its results.

Information Minister Rejects Israeli-PLO Accord

JN0405145094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 May 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Michel Samahah by unidentified reporter on 4 May, following "the signing of the Israeli-PLO agreement"; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Samahah] Having seen what has taken place in Cairo this morning, I would like to say that in spite of attempts to embellish things, we have witnessed an agreement of concession and the relinquishment of the Palestinian people's rights and Palestinian land. The cause has been put aside. At the signing ceremony this morning, Mr. 'Arafat gave up even the title the Arabs have granted to the president of the state of Palestine. I believe Israel continues to follow an arrogant and sly path. This sustains the hatred that cannot coexist with peace and under whose canopy peace cannot flourish. Peace can only survive in an atmosphere of justice, and the recovery of rights. Rights cannot be regained while Jerusalem remains besieged by an agreement and while the Palestinian people have not even regained their basic rights. I believe this is more of an arrangement between dealers than an agreement between two countries, or between a country and a people whose rights are being regained.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency Minister Samahah, this is on the national level, on the Palestinian level. Why this apprehension by the Lebanese authorities, by the Lebanese Government toward this agreement?

[Samahah] Because I view this agreement as being the final Gaza-Jericho agreement. After it was signed today, it is no longer Gaza-Jericho First. Thus, rights have been squandered, and an unjust basis for peace has been established. We fear for the peace process following this signing and believe the peace course is full of mines.

[Correspondent] On the Lebanese level, what impact will this agreement have on the Lebanese arena, that is, with respect to the issue of resettlement, and the issue of the presence of the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon?

[Samahah] If the Israeli leaders or Mr. 'Arafat believe that through such an agreement they will legalize resettlement, they will be ignoring the Palestinian people's rights, which we did not give up and which we want to maintain unharmed. We want to maintain these rights completely, in terms of the right to repatriation, the restoration of rights and land, and the right to citizenship on Palestinian land. Second, in the preamble of our Constituttion, we have reiterated our rejection of resettlement. The Lebanese are unanimous on this principle. The rejection of resettlement is not motivated by a regionalist, or chauvinist approach, but by our concern about Palestinian rights in Palestine and about our rights as Lebanese on our land and concerning our sovereignty.

[Correspondent] Minister Samahah, do you believe the conclusion of this agreement will complicate the other tracks, the tracks between Lebanon and Israel, and between Syria and Israel, or will it facilitate these tracks?

[Samahah] This agreement has given us an example of the kind of agreements by which Israel seeks to convert the countries around it into suburbs. We reject this. Therefore, we reject this unfair agreement. On the basis of what was agreed this morning, the agreement cannot be a comprehensive one. I believe the negotiations will be more complicated than some tend to believe. The future will tell.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency Michel Samahah, thank you for this interview.

Cites Concern for 'Lebanon's Identity'

NC0505085894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 May 94

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah on 4 May, followed by question-and-answer session with unidentified correspondents; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Samahah] The cabinet reviewed its agenda and approved several items, including a draft bill amending taxes on domestic consumption of fuel to be referred to the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

The cabinet also discussed and approved the Public Works Ministry's road works program for the year 1994-1995.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Samahah] This issue was discussed. The conference will be held in June, and the level of participation will be decided in another session.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Samahah] This information was broadcast over television and radio stations today. As for its impact on Lebanon, no matter what has been signed, we are always concerned that any agreement signed abroad should not have a negative effect on Lebanon. If you mean the Palestinians' settlement in Lebanon, as far as we are concerned, the Palestinian representatives are free to sign whatever they want; but we do not believe that this agreement has restored the Palestinians' legitimate rights to their land. Lebanon rejects the settlement for two basic reasons: First, we believe in the Palestinian people's right to return to their land and determine their future on their own soil. Second, we have the same concern for Lebanon's identity as an Arab country affiliated with its Arab homeland. As concerned as we are about the Palestinian identity in Palestine, we are also concerned about the Lebanese identity in Lebanon and this is [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Samahah] Let us wait and see what happens with the agreement. We are only concerned with our track. As the president said, we are concerned about the negotiations because we entered the negotiation process in Madrid as Arabs. The Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian tracks are still on the same level of progress.

If the Palestinians opt out, this means that they have departed from the Arab fold. They have left the Arab fold and Arab unity for unilateral negotiations and the signing of an agreement.

With regard to the negotiations, we are still committed to peace, but to a just peace based on the recovery of rights, to a comprehensive, just, and durable peace in line with the principles according to which Lebanon, along with Syria, Jordan, and the Palestinians, entered the negotiations in Madrid.

[Correspondent] Christopher [words indistinct].

[Samahah] To start with, his tour is not over yet. He is still in Cairo. [Words indistinct] that he will return in 15 days. Let us wait and see.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Samahah] Who is [word indistinct]? Secretary Christopher or Lebanon?

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]?

[Samahah] Not only is Lebanon taking a stand. Lebanon has adopted a position based on its conviction that it went to Madrid based on certain principles and wants to pursue the negotiations through these principles. I do not believe we should interpret Lebanon's absence from Christopher's itinerary in this context. [passage omitted]

Palestinians in Camps Strike To Protest Accord

NC0405114494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The 10 Palestinian opposition groups, the Hamas movement, and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad have declared a strike in the Palestinian camps in the Sidon area, the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, and the al-Miyah wa Miyah camp. Shops inside the camps closed and classes in United Nations Relief and Works Agency schools were suspended to protest the signing of the agreement between Israel and the PLO in Cairo today. Car tires were set on fire at the entrances to the camps this morning.

Hizballah: Agreement Legitimizes 'Occupation'

NC0405195194 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Hizballah denounced the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, signed today in Cairo, saying that it gives complete legitimacy to the Zionist occupation in the occupied territories.

Bishops Criticize Church Bombing Investigation

NC0405135494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] At their monthly meeting today, the Maronite bishops stated that the continuing detentions and investigations since the bombing of the Sayyidat al-Najat Church have done nothing to reassure the public. They said that the focus is shifting from the Sayyidat al-Najat Church file to other files, that this crime has been removed from official attention, and that it has been used as a means for political rather than criminal trial.

The Maronite bishops denounced what they called the pursuit of many youths, which may harm Lebanon's reputation. They stressed that media freedom is the basis of freedoms. They noted that the issuing of the prospective media law will be a healthy sign if it guarantees freedom of expression. They called on officials to show serious attention to the people's economic difficulties.

'Awn Ready for 'Direct Dialogue' With Syria

PM0405132294 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: " 'Awn Expresses Willingness To Hold Direct Dialogue With Syria"]

[Text] Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Former Lebanese Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn yesterday expressed willingness to hold a direct dialogue with Syria with no Lebanese intermediary but on condition that "Damascus state its position clearly and in advance on a number of basic points which are not negotiable."

'Awn, who was talking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from his residence in La Hutte Maison in the outskirts of Paris, said: "I hope that what I am saying will not be interpreted as appeasement."

'Awn added: "I do not agree to talk to the Lebanese regime. I prefer to talk to the party directly responsible on the ground. That party should, before the dialogue starts, make a number of commitments on two main issues, namely sovereignty and independence."

'Awn believes that "a practical demonstration of these two issues can be made by scheduling withdrawal of the Syrian Army from all Lebanese territory."

He described the claims made every now and then about attempts to open a dialogue with him as mere maneuvers. He added that "serious dialogue cannot be done through the press." 'Awn asked: "What has become of the investigation into the crime of blowing up Sayyidat al-Najah church?"

He said that that case should be urgently dealt with because "it is a special case, independent of any other case." He said that "that incident was fabricated and opened the way to other crimes."

Newspapers To Observe Work Stoppage 7 May

NC0405173294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] In agreement with the Editors Union, the Lebanese Press Syndicate has issued a statement on a work stoppage by newspapers on Friday. Newspapers will not be published on 7 May.

Head of the Lebanese intellectuals' academy Mayy al-Murr called on the state to proclaim the anniversary of the 6 May martyrs an anniversary for all Lebanese martyrs.

Newspapers Voice Discontent With 'Arafat Moves

JN0505084494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 5 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "An Agreement That Bestows Legitimacy on Occupation," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Yasir 'Arafat signed a new agreement with Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday as an extension of the Oslo agreement that was secretly negotiated outside the Washington peace talks and without the participation of most Palestinian leaders in and outside of the PLO. We do not know how many subsequent agreements will be signed and presented to the people.

AL-BA'TH adds: Anyone who saw the huge notebooks signed by 'Arafat and compared their size to their miserable contents will say: What revolution until victory has 'Arafat led toward a besieged Gaza Strip and a small detention camp, which is at Israel's disposal and which is called Jericho? Anyone who contemplates the role played by 'Arafat when he refrained from signing, and then signed with head held low and without the usual signal of victory, will be overwhelmed with regret and sorrow.

The paper says that in view of these negative indicators, any agreement not supported by the people will lose its value, its seriousness, and its strength, and ultimately face a known fate. What has happened between the PLO and the Israeli Government is not in the interest of the Palestinian people. Practical experience shows this agreement will not push the peace process toward its objectives, represented by establishing peace, regaining rights, and safeguarding the interests of all parties.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria seeks a just and comprehensive peace. Syria has never accepted, and will not accept, separate and incomplete solutions. The paper points out that we, in Syria, have cooperated, and will continue to cooperate, for the sake of such peace. It emphasizes that a just and comprehensive solution will achieve a durable peace, saying that any agreement that is not accepted by peoples, that does not secure peoples' national interests, and that is not in line with the resolutions of international legitimacy cannot bear the seeds of its own life. This is because the will of peoples will triumph at the end.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The Palestinian people, who are known for their struggle and sacrifices, will continue to express themselves and achieve their objectives regardless of dark days and hard circumstances.

Under the headline "The General Mourning," the newspaper TISHRIN says: It is very clear that the Gaza-Jericho agreement and its signature are not a step on the path of peace. This agreement places new obstacles before the peace process, and removes from Israel a heavy burden as a result of the escalating and continuing intifadah. This was explained by the fact that many Israeli officials acknowledged that this agreement secured a partner for Israel and its security, and that a security alliance was established between the PLO and Israel to confront and end the intifadah.

TISHRIN explains: By showing firm, broad, and angry rejection of the self-rule agreement, the Palestinian people are reiterating their insistence on toppling this agreement and are showing that they will never relinquish their objectives for which the tumultuous intifadah was unleashed in order to totally remove the occupation from the occupied Palestinian territories.

The paper emphasizes that the Palestinian people are aware that any partial solutions, phased settlements, and separated deals can only be in favor of both Israel and its occupation and will not be in favor of Palestinian national rights. Concluding, TISHRIN says: All facts point out that the anger that prevailed in the occupied Arab territories when 'Arafat signed the liquidation of the Palestine question was the strongest proof that Israel has dragged the Palestinian side into a situation with grave consequences and into further concessions. These concessions began in Oslo, then continued, and recently ended in a fragile agreement not in the interest of the peace process. This agreement gives Israel many gains, and turns the Palestinian police into tools to guard both the occupation and the settlements.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Top Leaders

JN0505104894 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1015 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] At 1145 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

The meeting was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

Defense Minister Receives Sudanese Deputy Chief of Staff

JN0205141294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 May 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and the Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, today received Lieutenant General Faruq 'Ali Muhammad, Sudanese deputy chief of staff, and the delegation accompanying him. Lieutenant General 'Ali Aslan, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces, attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with relations of cooperation and coordination between the fraternal Syrian and Sudanese Armies, and the means of promoting these relations in the interest of the two fraternal countries.

Israel Urged To Respond to Ideas Carried by Christopher

JN0305142994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 May 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The ball is now in the Israeli court following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's talks in Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad. Christopher has said his talks reached a serious, substantive level, and that he has conveyed ideas from Damascus.

The Israeli foreign minister has acknowledged that the questions conveyed by Christopher were serious and complicated. President Hafiz al-Asad had briefed the U.S. secretary on Syria's view, which stems from a true desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that guarantees the rights of all parties. President al-Asad stressed that addressing the basic issues in the peace process would ensure progress.

There is no doubt that full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and the occupied territories is a major issue. Without acknowledging the principle of complete and speedy withdrawal, it is impossible to realize progress. The question of the Golan is not only that it is Syrian territory occupied by force; there are also tens of thousands of displaced Syrians who were forced to flee from their land and are now awaiting return. There is also the question of the towns destroyed by Israel, especially the city of al-Qunaytirah that was turned to rubble and is now awaiting reconstruction. It is unreasonable to reconstruct this heroic city of martyrs while Israeli threats are still a reality.

The occupation has left behind deep, bleeding wounds that must be dressed. This is impossible without a speedy Israeli withdrawal. Syria has for some time now been offering full peace for full withdrawal. If we are to deal with Israel through citing the statements of its officials, then peace, as Rabin himself has acknowledged, is the best guarantee of security.

Syria is offering honorable, true, firm, and lasting peace; Israel, on the other hand, will only be withdrawing from Syrian territory that was occupied by force and responding to the resolutions of international legitimacy by putting the record straight and putting an end to many years of illegitimate practices on the Golan.

Syria can only understand Israel's reluctance to accept full and comprehensive withdrawal as a way to evade the obligations of the peace process.

If we revisit the past, we will find that the leaders of Israel have been shouting loudly, since 1948, calling for peace with the Arabs and appealing to the world to intervene to hold Arab-Israeli peace talks. Yet, as soon as the United States announced a peace initiative in the Middle East, through former President George Bush, the Israeli officials started creating impediments and obstacles to it. Thus, they unwillingly participated in the Madrid conference and wasted two years of the Washington talks. Instead of the comprehensive peace proposed by the Arabs, they have propagated piecemeal peace over long stages in order to prolong the occupation and suffering—despite the fact that a piecemeal peace is not a solution, nor does it lead to a solution. Rather, it nurtures tension in the region.

The Israeli officials are today facing a new test. They have been crying out for some time now that they are concerned about a lasting peace with Syria. Secretary Christopher has taken along with him from Damascus ideas that will lead to a lasting peace if Israel responds to these ideas and truly responds to the UN resolutions and the foundations of the Madrid conference.

The Israeli officials are well aware that Syria will not engage in phased settlements and partial solutions and that it looks forward to regaining its occupied territory, and consequently, to a full withdrawal of Israeli forces. The Israeli officials are also well aware that Syria keeps its word and that it makes peace honorably and fights war honorably. However, peace is impossible to build as long as occupation and threats continue. There is no alternative to fully removing occupation, establishing justice, and removing all manifestations of threat and expansion in the region.

India

Rao Position as Party Leader Said 'Gradually Weakening'

BK0505022394 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 21 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by Shibdas Bandhopadhyay]

[Text] The assurance Narasimha Rao gave at the very beginning that he would make efforts to democratize the structure and function of the party has suffered a setback at the very inception. Though the strength of the prime minister in the government has increased, his position as party leader is gradually weakening. Recently, the prime minister himself violated his earlier pledge regarding maintaining a democratic structure in the party by dismissing the state committees of the party in 10 states with the stroke of a pen and installing selected people who are obedient to him in those states.

Personal interests rather than political consideration always played a greater role both in making and in violating pledges. The main allegation against the Nehru-Gandhi family was that they did not care to abide by democratic norms while running the affairs of the party. They were competent in administering the party on an ad hoc basis. There has been no organizational elections of the party for at least 20 years. After Rao was nominated party leader and prime minister, he announced that if the party adopts the path of democratization through the holding of organizational elections then it would become difficult for the followers of Sonia [wife of late Rajiv Gandhi] to get the leadership of the party. With the passage of time, Rao has himself surrendered to the ruling family. It is significant to note that Rao held about an hour long face-to-face talks with Sonia before appointing the ad hoc committees of the Congress-I in 10 states. Party men have noticed that Sonia is gradually getting rid of her lack of interest in politics which she earlier displayed. The recent visit of Sonia to Andhra Pradesh, which is the constituency of Rao, her acceptance of an invitation extended by the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, Digvijay Singh, to visit the state, and her later rejection of an invitation—are all are quite significant.

Under Rao, elections to the working committee of the Congress-I and also the organizations of the party throughout the country were held. Earlier the members of the working committee were nominated. Taking advantage of the elections, the groups opposed to Rao became active and became desperate to seize the control of the organization. After the election of the working committee, Rao identified the persons who posed a challenge to his authority. He then made influential leaders like Arjun Singh [Human Resources Development Minister] and Sharad Pawar [Maharashtra Chief Minister] resign from the working committee and inducted people nominated by him in their places. Apart from these minor strategies, Rao allowed the party to move in its own way. Then he became active to consolidate the seat of the prime minister by keeping his authority on his party firm. He also succeeded in establishing an absolute majority of his party in the Lok Sabha by creating divisions in different parties and winning them over to his party despite the existence of the Antidefection Law.

After consolidating the seat of the prime minister and making it free from danger, Rao has now turned his attention toward the party organizations. He wants to make these organizations such that they will only carry out his orders. Rao is sparing no opportunity to embarrass and harass Arjun Singh and Sharad Pawar. This has been proved by the incidents that took place at a function held to pay homage to martyrs of the Jalianwalabag massacre [this massacre took place during the British rule]. At this function, the human resources development minister, Arjun Singh, was harassed, and Sharad Pawar was embarrassed over the issue of the illegal wealth of Dawood Ibrahim [underworld figure].

It appears from the last meeting of the working committee that the authority of Rao has been reestablished. The State Congress committees of Goa and Gujarat have entrusted Rao with the responsibility of nominating their leaders. This confidence in and allegiance to Rao may lead to autocracy. The failure of Rao to nominate the chief minister of Gujarat even in two months has created doubts whether he deserves the confidence that has been placed in him. In the last working committee meeting, at least five pro-democracy leaders viz. Arjun Singh, Balram Jakhar [agriculture minister], A.K. Anthony [civil supplies minister], Rajesh Pilot [state minister for home], and R.K. Dhawan raised objections to giving supreme power to Rao for reconstituting the working committee and the All India Congress Committee. At the end a compromise was reached that allowed Rao to reconstitute the party committees in the states and the organizations at the lower level. By exercising this power, Rao can keep the provincial leaders within his grip.

The organizational success of Rao will depend on his efforts to suppress the powerful groups within the party. Apart from this, he needs to win over the people by his own charisma and also have a dependable group of followers. Until now Rao has failed to achieve any of these two objectives. This state of affairs has created a favorable situation for his sycophants like Pranab Mukherjee [commerce minister], Sidhartha Shankar Ray [Indian ambassador to U.S.] and Priya Ranjan Das Munshi. Pranab Mukherjee is now showing as if the West Bengal State Congress Committee is within his pocket. At the same time he is studying the prospects of the reentry of Sidhartha Shankar Ray in the politics of the state. He is also keeping a watch whether Priyo Ranjan Das Munshi makes any sabotage. Priyo Ranjan is keen to get either the position of Soumen Mitra [leader of the West Bengal State Congress] or a post in the union cabinet. He is not willing to delay this special day celebration.

Due to the pace at which Rao is proceeding, the confused and divided opposition cannot rule out the possibility of sudden elections in at least 10 states if not of the Lok Sabha. These states include Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Goa, Manipur, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat,

Orissa, and Arunachal Pradesh. Rao has not taken up any political program or announced any slogan as a preparatory measure for the holding of elections in these states.

The scope of preelection slogan talk has reduced in view of the current economic and political scenario at the national and international level. The days of cheap slogans and announcement of schemes are over. For these reasons, Rao has become more interested to use party organizations as a tool to win elections. With this end in view the process has started to nominate the right candidate, remove the dissidents, and to convert the party into a professional bureaucratic organization. Rajiv Gandhi also adopted the same techniques in the year 1989. Will Rao ultimately be able to control the impact of the GATT?

Rao is now trying to run the party in the style set up by Indira and Rajiv. Until now he has failed to attain the command displayed by Indira or Rajiv. He has postponed for an indefinite period the organizational elections that were scheduled for this year. This time all appointments against party positions will be given on an ad hoc basis. Rao will perform this task with the assistance of different committees or observer groups. He will brief these committees or observers about the people liked and disliked by him.

In the past this strategy or method failed to mobilize the internal strength of the Congress. Will it be different in the case of Rao? Or will he gradually hand over over his authority to No.10 Janapath [residence of Sonia Gandhi]? Rao has achieved some election successes in Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh. In these two states, Digvijay Singh and Vir Bhadra Singh have become chief ministers by defeating the leaders who had the blessings of Rao. In these two states the party organization has been resusticated to the grass-roots level. Party elections in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan has been set aside. In these areas, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, perhaps, Rao wants to nip in the bud the prospects of the growth of powerful leadership. The reverses suffered by his party in the elections held in these states has been seen by all. Here lies the danger of running the party on an ad hoc basis. The claims he can make regarding the successes of the government will perhaps not play a significant role in the contest during the elections. In that case his dream to lead the party during the next Lok Sabha elections may be shattered whether the elections is held on schedule in 1996 or earlier.

Editorial Accuses U.S. of 'Arm-Twisting'

BK0405131194 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Apr 94 p 13

[Editorial: "More Arm-Twisting?"]

[Text] It is easy, and tempting if one happens to be a critic of the Congress, to attribute almost all actions of the Narasimha Rao government to US arm-twisting. Even the Prime Minister's acceptance of May 19 as the date of his meeting with President Clinton is being interpreted as a meek nod to the Americans' dictates. The government has only itself to blame if this impression gains ground in the context of the two-day meeting between Indian and US representatives at London. Despite the loud denials by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr R. L. Bhatia, two things are clear. The London meeting was a suggestion from the US carrying the force of an unrejectable proposal and the agenda of the meeting did pertain to the US insistence on India accepting a multilateral process for disarmament and regional security in South Asia. The May 19 summit is quite obviously designed to announce India's concurrence with the launching of the multi-lateral process, also known as the 5 + 2 + 2 Conference, without Mr Narasimha Rao giving the appearance of having been forced into it by deviating from India's declared nuclear policy of the past two decades. The camouflaging and sugarcoating may have been worked out in London where the Indian and American teams are giving shape and structure to the concept. India has refused to consider earlier proposals for regional security and de-nuclearisation of South Asia and has so far not accepted the 5 + 2 + 2—five permanent members of the UN Security Council, Germany and Japan and India and Pakistan—on the ground that nuclear disarmament is not a regional issue but a global problem.

To be fair to the Government, Mr Narasimha Rao has so far yielded less ground on the nuclear policy front than on the economic front. In both, the options for India are not too many. Yet again, accepting to meet in a third country to chalk out a bilateral summit agenda defies logic, whatever the logistical advantages the authorities may have conjured up. India can duck the issues but cannot dare defy the superpower initiative. As far as domestic political fall out is concerned, Mr Narasimha Rao's negotiating skills are to be sharpened to successfully duck the issues. It can be done in two ways. First, India can ask for an enlarged conference on the problems of global arms control and rope in Russia, North Korea, Iran and a lot else into the proposed multi- lateral process. There is no dearth of Indian expertise and knowledge for this line of action. The second option, possibly less objectionable to the opposition at home, is to avoid any kind of specific commitments—there are any number of technical details to be sorted out—on the NPT and regional security proposals. The second option is not only available but also exercisable.

Government Monitoring Pakistan's Aircraft Supply

BK0505095294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] The government is taking appropriate steps to counter the situation arising out of threat of the supply of F-16 aircrafts to Pakistan by the United States. In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, assured the house that the government is closely monitoring the matter concerning the supply of these aircrafts and steps are being taken to counter it.

Spokesman Welcomes PLO-Israeli Accord on Self-Rule

BK0505055494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] India and several other countries have welcomed the signing of the historic agreement on Palestinian self-rule. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi that India has given consistent support to the Palestinians in the peace process. He recalled that India is one of the few countries outside the region invited to witness the signing ceremony at Cairo. The Indian delegation led by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, was present when the PLO chairman, Mr Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli prime minister, Mr. Rabin, signed the landmark agreement.

Iran

Paper Condemns 'Arafat's 'Complete Surrender'

LD0505095594 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 5, IRNA—A Persian daily here Thursday blasted the Wednesday's signing of final documents on Gaza-Jericho compromise deal between Yasir 'Arafat and the Zionist regime and termed it as complete surrender to the Zionist enemy. The morning Persian daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said in its editorial that the entire occupied territories plunged into strike and protest against the treacherous measure. The agreement is so scandalous that even 'Arafat primarily refused to sign its map appendix but eventually he was forced to do so under the U.S. pressures, the daily said.

Although the Zionist enemy and its supporters intend to suppress and uproot the Palestine Islamic movement through their bullying methods, they should realize that 'Arafat is not the representative of the Palestinian nation.

Lashing out at some of the reactionary Arab regimes for their collective treachery, it said that such regimes are not the guardians of the Palestinian nation. The daily added that the Palestinians have shown through their active presence in the occupied territories that they will not give in to such bullying acts. The paper stressed that the intifadah, the all-out uprising of the Palestinian nation, will have the final word in the occupied territories, adding that, the final word is the elimination of the occupying regime of Qods [Jerusalem].

Liberation of the occupied territories and annihilation of the usurpers is the only option before the Palestinian nation, concluded the paper.

Central Bank Governor on Foreign Currency Issues

LD0405194594 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 94

[Studio interview with Dr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank of Iran, by unidentified correspondent; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Adeli] [passage omitted] The setting up of non-banking establishments will truly change the state monetary system. The government approved the policy today. I should explain that according to that policy from now on our private sector will also be able to set up non-banking credit establishments.

As you know, at the moment in our country only banks deal with money matters. [passage omitted] In a developing country, which needs more investments; more savings, there is a need for more instruments to attract people's savings. That is why in many developing and developed countries non-banking establishments exist. We also decided to create such non-banking establishments in order to offer, on the one hand, a more diverse variety for people's investments and, on the other hand, to be able to offer loans. The only difference between those institutions and banks is that they cannot issue written credit documents. That is they cannot offer check books to the public. They can offer all types of saving accounts and offer all type of loans, but they cannot offer any current accounts. In our announcement next week we shall set out all their conditions so that those seeking to set up such establishments can apply accordingly. God willing, such establishments will begin operation in our country and a better efficiency is brought about in the country in the allocation of resources.

[Correspondent] Thank you, Dr. 'Adeli, for your explanations.

Trading in Foreign Currency Markets Called 'Treason'

LD0405184894 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] At a Cabinet session today, a recent decision by the committee for regulating the foreign currency market was raised, which relates to the supply of foreign currency to those importers who have registered or will be registering at the Ministry of Commerce for imports in lieu of their exports. It was decided that the banking system will follow the policy diligently and that the companies and establishments owned by the government or affiliated to it will avoid participation in the foreign currency market.

Taking into consideration the readiness of the banking system to supply the foreign currency requirements of this group of importers, the presence of state companies and those companies affiliated to the government in the

foreign currency market will be deemed treason and offenders will be prosecuted.

According to a decision by the Cabinet, any negligence by executive banks in carrying out the new decisions by the foreign currency regulating committee will be deemed as collaboration with saboteurs of the state currency and economic system.

Khamene'i Condemns Dependence on Foreigners

LD0405134194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 4 May 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, to lecturers, teachers, and workers at Imam Khomeyni's prayer house marking the week honoring teachers and workers on 4 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. [passage omitted] I would like to take the opportunity today to talk about the fact that there are two points of view in our country and in many so-called Third World countries.

One view is that the people, the enlightened, and the decision-makers of the country must rely on a world-dominant power to build their country and make a future for their country. [passage omitted] That is one view. It exists in backward countries. Those who have studied geopolitics know that it exists in Latin America and in some Asian and African countries. Some enlightened people and politicians believe this. [passage omitted]

I very much regret to say that there are, unfortunately, some people in some parts of our country today who still have the same view. They are still under the influence of the remnants of ideas and tastes of past puppets of the West and the United States. That is one view.

Another view says no to this: We are a nation; we have certain capabilities; we must adopt the principle of utilizing our own capabilities. Of course, if we are ever stuck and see that someone else has better tools, we will go and borrow his tools and do our job. Then we will try to manufacture those tools ourselves. That is a sensible thing to do. [passage omitted] To a nation, that means scientific, practical, technical, cultural, and all-round independence. From the beginning the revolution has pursued this form of independence.

Some other countries have followed this path. Countries which were nearly razed to the ground after World War II—as is usually exaggerated in reports—have risen and taken care of themselves and used their own manpower. By managing their worldly affairs they have today surpassed those who brought such misery to them in the war. It can be done. That is the other view.

The aim of our imam [Khomeyni]—God be satisfied with him—was to say to our nation: O people of Iran, O Iranian youths, O Iranian workers, O Iranian engineers, O Iranian managers, you can do it without relying on foreigners. The imam wanted to revive in us the spirit of self-reliance.

Over the last few decades people have said: Iranians? No, sir! They joked that domestic goods are not quality products. There is no greater injustice to a nation. Our domestically-produced goods are today in many instances much better than foreign-made goods. [passage omitted]

We have many resources. I tell you from the bottom of my heart, if anyone wishes to know, that my real aspiration is that one day we can turn off the oil well taps and base our economy on something other than oil. Let us imagine this country without oil. [audience shouts approval] Of course, this may not be practical for some time. During the era of the subservient and corrupt Pahlavi regime, the enemies of Iran did a great deal of sabotage by making this nation and this country dependent on oil. The sabotage done was much greater than can be imagined, and it makes it impossible for us to realize this aspiration easily. But this must be done one day. Such a day will come when the Iranian nation utilizes its innate intelligence to stop handing these assets to those, who with utmost wickedness, exploit the national wealth of oil producing countries. On such a day this nation will be able to stand on its own two feet.

Today, unfortunately, things are different. Thanks to the betrayal of some oil producing countries, and thanks to their complicity with the international plundering thieves, oil has today become a tool in the hands of the consumers instead of serving the interests of the oil producing states by benefiting them politically and economically. It has become like an inferior commodity, whereas it is a commodity without which the world would have no light, no heat, no movement, and no industry. Without oil, the modern industrial civilization, which is founded on machinery, would grind to a halt. This is how important our oil is. When I say our oil, I mean the oil of the entire region and the oil resources of the world. Of course, this region possesses the main resources, and those states which have joined hands with the plunderers unfortunately possess the major part of these oil resources.

This very valuable commodity has become a tool in the hand of the consumers, and they are also very dependent on it. They began planning a policy such as this dozen of years ago and it has today reached fruition. Unfortunately, a handful of treacherous statesmen of the subservient states cooperate with them.

Imagine, however, that the Iranian nation, Iranian workers, Iranian youth, Iranian producers, and Iranian teachers were to concentrate all their efforts and zeal to build this country by altering its exports/imports ratio, by reducing consumer demand and foreign currency

requirements, and by building this country in such a way as to make it free from having to sell its oil at such a low price. If all this were to happen, can you imagine what great benefits such efforts would bring to this country today and in the future? How could this be possible? It would be possible when the Iranian worker regards work as true worship. [passage omitted]

May God bestow his success upon all of us that we may understand our obligations and perform our tasks accordingly, God willing. May God's peace, mercy, and blessings be upon you all.

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on RSA

LD0405172494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement today expressing satisfaction at the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa and the victory of the African National Congress in that country's elections. The statement announced: Our country is ready to do all it can to expand bilateral relations in all fields.

The statement refers to the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for the struggle of the people of South Africa to eliminate racism and for cooperation with black struggling groups and adds: The Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the establishment of a popular government in South Africa through a general election in which all races participate, and which is based on the principle of one person, one vote. It is in that respect that Iran has sent four diplomats, through the United Nations, as observers to the elections in South Africa.

Government To Lift Economic Sanctions

LD0405195294 Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—Following the victory of the African National Congress (ANC) in the first free multi-racial elections and fall of apartheid in South Africa, Islamic Iran is to lift its 15-year-old economic sanctions against that country and establish healthy relations between the two countries.

Having based its foreign policy on defending rights of the world's oppressed, from the triumph of the Islamic revolution in 1979, Tehran, which severed ties with racist Pretoria, is to resume its economic and political relations now that a popularly elected government has come to power in South Africa.

The Iranian Cabinet approved establishment of economic-political ties with South Africa in January 1994 with the collapse of apartheid and commissioned the Foreign Ministry to pave the way for removing the sanctions against the country and set up relations with it.

Economic and political experts anticipate establishment of firm and multilateral relations between Iran and South Africa and foresee steady expansion in the future.

According to informed sources, South Africa, which was once the main consumer of Iranian oil, intends to resume its economic ties with Iran by importing crude oil, and the first official agreement to be signed between the two countries is expected to include the supply of Iranian crude oil for South African refineries.

Iran expressed interest,in improving its economic and trade ties with the country a month after the lifting of United Nation's economic sanctions against it.

Now it is expected that Iran would play an active and substantial role in South Africa's economic programmes and that the two countries' volume of exchange would rise to dlrs. [dollars] 100 per annum very soon.

The valuable experiences of Iranian experts and specialists over the years of reconstruction following the victory of the revolution would enable them to have an active part in development of housing and power generation in South Africa which declared it would spend dlrs. 108 billion on housing, electricity and employment within the coming five years.

[Word indistinct] the lack of a clear prospect in Iran's economic relations with South Africa, experts believe that mutual interests and connections between the two nations and their leaders provide a proper foundation for Tehran and Pretoria to build up deep political, economic, cultural and social ties.

Advisers Accuse Britain of Waging 'Political War'

LD0405183394 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—International relations experts say Britain's recent claim about Iran's collaboration with Northern Ireland is out of spite and unfounded.

They say Britain, by propounding such a claim, thinks it can ruin relations between Iran and Europe.

International relations analyst Farhad Azimi, in his interview on Wednesday, says that by alleging an Iranian link to the Northern Ireland issue, London intends to give plausibility to its age-old hostile propaganda against Islamic Iran.

"Prime Minister John Major would do better to realize the realities in Iran and discontinue London's efforts at antagonizing Europe with Iran, and watch out against playing into the hands of certain notorious elements," he added.

According to Azimi, the Islamic Republic must revise its relations with those governments that are unable to realize the factual realities in Iran.

College professor and Britain-watcher Dr. Reza Farahmandi told IRNA today that since the triumph of the Islamic revolution, the British Government has consistently pursued a fraudulent policy in its dealings with Iran.

He said British arms sales to Iraq during the almost eight years of the Iraqi war (1980-88) against Iran, Britain's aids to the terrorist grouplets with the idea of them subverting the Iranian Government as well as the recent voicing of such irrelevant claims as Iran having collaborated with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) are all typical examples of Britain's schemes for waging a political war with the Islamic republic.

"The triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979 in fact ended the history of foreign domination in Iran as well as any cause for succumbing to any foreign pressure for yielding to external threats," he added.

Dr. Farahmandi said another goal behind the scheme is for the British Government to divert attention from the shabby state of affairs at home and direct public attention outside of England.

He commented that Iran's lobbying at international forums for the aggressed people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and its exposure of grim realities about the discriminative polices of Britain, Europe and the U.S. against the continent's native Muslim population, has raised doubts about London's claims of commitment to human rights and other international conventions that disallow the massacre of innocent people of whatsoever religious faith, origin and race.

German Officials Silent on Iran-IRA Links

LD0405110494 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Bonn, May 4, IRNA—An informed source in German Government here Tuesday quoted British circles as saying that there is no evidence to link Iran with the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

While British press and the government have added fuel to London's latest smear campaign, other European official sources have ignored the matter.

A German Foreign Ministry spokesman Tuesday told IRNA that his government can not comment on British accusation against Iran.

According to Swiss "NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG" the British Government's allegation is based on MI6 intelligence service of that country.

The paper also said that the British intelligence service has provided a Greek paper with the information on Iran's aid to the IRA, to give London the pretext to take diplomatic measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Hajj Supervisor Departs for Saudi Arabia

LD0405163094 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri, the representative of the vali-e faqih [vice-regent of the Supreme Jusrisconsult] and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrimage, set off for Saudi Arabia this evening. He was seen off by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Golpayegani, a representative of the exalted leader; Mr. Mo'ayeri, a representative of the president; and several of our country's political and religious personalities.

In an interview with our correspondent before his departure, he referred to the exalted leadership's stress on the need for the realization of the principles delineated for Iranian pilgrims to the House of God by the great leader of the Islamic revolution [Khomeyni], and called upon pilgrims to concentrate all their efforts on the exaltation of the principles of pure Mohammadan Islam and the bond among Muslims.

He expressed the hope that cooperation by the Saudi Arabian Government results in the better implementation of the envisaged programs for the Iranian pilgrims during the holy period of hajj.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohammadi-Reyshahri called on Iranian pilgrims to observe discipline and regulations and actively participate in the ceremonies and rites, and warned them to avoid any act that might mar the unity of Muslims.

He stressed that during this year's hajj rites, Iranian pilgrims will perform their religious and divine duties, headed by the ceremony of disavowal of infidels.

Tehran To Supply Electricity to Nakhichevan

LD0405182494 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] [dateline as received] May 4, IRNA—An official of the electricity company of the republic of Azerbaijan said here today that this year the Islamic Republic of Iran is to supply the republic of Nakhichevan as much as 200 million kw/h of electricity.h

He said because gas pipes and electricity lines carrying gas and electricity from Azerbaijan to Nakhichevan had been broken the region has a hard time trying to cope with power shortage.

UN, Afghan Envoys Meet Velayati

LD0405180794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The UN special envoy for Afghan affairs, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, met Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, this evening. Mestiri conveyed a report on the outcome of his negotiations with the officials of

Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Afghanistan and said: The United Nations is seeking to find a way to end the current crisis in Afghanistan. He also stressed the use of the Islamic Republic of Iran's experiences in solving the Afghan crisis.

Mr. Velayati referred to the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to return peace to Afghanistan and said: All of that country's neighbors stress the establishment of peace and stability in Kabul because internal situation in Afghanistan also affects its neighbors.

The special UN envoy for Afghan affair also spoke to our correspondent describing the existing unrest in Kabul as the main obstacle on the way to achieve a fundamental solution and the return of Afghan refugees to their country. Mr. Mestiri agreed that the help provided by the United Nations to the Afghan refugees who live in Iran is very little and expressed the hope that the UNHCR would pay attention to that matter.

On the basis of the same report, the Afghan High Coordination Council envoys also met and conferred with Mr Velayati this evening. Recent developments in Afghanistan were reviewed during that meeting.

Pakistani Interior Minister Meets Besharati

LD0405182094 Tehran IRNA in English 1755 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 4, IRNA—The interior ministers of Iran and Pakistan here Wednesday discussed issues of mutual interest including Bosnia Herzegovina, Palestine, Afghanistan, and Kashmir.

Pakistani Minister of the Interior Nasrullah Khan Babar told his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, that the war of the Serbs against the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina is "a war of the West with the entirety of the Muslim world."

He said the the assembly of foreign ministers of the Muslim states in Geneva would help to ease pressure on Muslims especially of Kashmir.

Besharati assured that the Islamic Republic of Iran would continue to be on the side of Pakistan. He added that frequent exchange of visits between the ranking officials of the two countries was sufficient proof of the interest of both countries in further developing their relations.

The Iranian official referred to the combat against drug trafficking as a "common issue" about which the two countries were equally concerned. He said Iran and Pakistan continued their mutual efforts to end that problem.

The Pakistani official is in Tehran to sign a letter of understanding on joint commitment to fight drug trafficking along the two countries common borders.

Pakistan

Bhutto To Attend South Africa Presidential Ceremony

BK0405131794 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] It has been announced in Islamabad that the prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, will leave for South Africa on Sunday to attend the ceremony at which Mr. Nelson Mandela will be installed as the first non-White president of the country. The prime minister during her three-day official visit will hold bilateral meetings with several heads of state and government who will be present at this ceremony. On her way back, the prime minister will make a brief stopover in Nairobi.

Bhutto: No 'Discrimination' or 'Compromise' on Security

BK0405160094 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has said we are aware of the dimensions of national defense and will not accept discrimination or compromise on our security. The prime minister was addressing the student officers at the Command and Staff College in Quetta today.

[Begin Bhutto recording] We are aware of the dimensions of our national defense which call for heightened consciousness. We are clear about the diagnosis and the prescription. National security must always take precedence.

Pakistan is a peaceful nation. We are against territorial aggrandizement. We are against nuclear proliferation and we have exercised commendable self-restraint to demonstrate the point, but we do not accept discrimination. A country which has had three wars cannot afford to do so. Today it has become fashionable to talk about nuclear phraseology, words like capping, freezing, roll back are being thrown about in the open with abundance without appreciating that national security must be accorded collective responsibility. Each day self-centered individuals intent on achieving narrow objectives throw about strategic issues, indifferent to the damage they inflict on national policies. We have said it before and I am saying it here today before this august gathering that if even the sun melts we will not accept discrimination or compromise on our security. The right of survival is the first right. [end recording]

The prime minister said we are determined to make Pakistan a modern welfare state. She said we will have to take strong decisions to achieve this objective. The prime minister said there is a need to reform our taxation system and we have decided to take steps in this direction. The prime minister said the next budget will be a step forward for revitalizing the economy. She said the government will give firm economic foundation to

the country to promote free market economy and would ensure smooth economic progress and prosperity.

Earlier, the commandant of the staff college gave a resume of the training facilities available at the college. Some military officers are also getting training at the college.

Karachi Situation Updated; MQM Leaders Arrested

BK0505032894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 May 94

[Text] Barring several stray incidents of violence in certain areas, the law and order situation in various districts of Karachi and Hyderabad is returning to normal. Commercial activities in both cities have increased and traffic is fast returning to normal.

The district magistrate of Karachi-West in a press note issued last night said that law enforcement agencies last night raided the head office of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM]-Altaf group in Azizabad and arrested several people, including three members of the Sind Assembly, who were involved in various crimes. The press note adds that reports of stray incidents of firing into the air, the partial gutting of shops, and the injuring of two persons by miscreants have been noted in the Gulbahar police station area. Law enforcement personnel are patrolling the area.

The district magistrate of Karachi-South has banned pillion riding on motorcycles and scooters for 30 days. Women, children up to the age of 12 years, and handicapped people will be excluded from the ban. The district magistrate of Malir has also imposed such restrictions.

According to a press note issued by the Hyderabad district magistrate, the overall situation in the district remained peaceful and all business establishments in the city remained open. Press agencies report from Sukkur say law enforcement officials are keeping a strict watch on miscreants in the city where a strike was observed yesterday. Main markets and business centers also remained closed in Nawabshah and Tando Adam in connection with the strike.

Russia Offers To Supply 'Secret' Helicopter Technology

BK0405130994 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 4 May 94 p 1

[Text] Islamabad, May 3—At long last Pakistan has been able to make a breakthrough in acquisition of sophisticated defence equipment from Russia for which it has been striving hard for decades in its bid to diversify its defence procurements.

In a major development, to begin with Russia has offered for the first time to supply to Pakistan a well-guarded secret helicopter technology of co-axial rotors and a helicopter with no tail rotor blades.

Russia has entered the competition for supply of five helicopters to Emergency Relief Cell of the Cabinet division along with 30 other companies. Top on the list of Russian helicopters is the State-of-Art K-32-T helicopter which not only has a reputation of being the safest and the most economical helicopter but it also holds the world record of landing at the height of over 24,000 feet with two-men crew. What puts this helicopter a class apart from the rest of the helicopters is that it has no tail rotor blades which improves its flight safety upto 40 percent and cuts down maintenance cost by 30 percent. Russia has also offered M-18, M1-17 and MI-171.

Tenders were opened in the committee Room of the Cabinet Division on April 30 with 30 companies participating in the bid. Tenders were opened in the presence of the D G [Director-General] Emergency Relief Cell, Additional Secretary Cabinet Division, a representative of the Army and the other officials.

Emergency Relief Cell of the Cabinet Division had invited tenders for the purchase of five helicopter—three utility version and two VIP version. Emergency Relief Cell had acquired six UHIH aircraft from the USAID in 1970 for flood relief operations. With the expiry of their life-span their replacements were urgently required. The participants of the bid included the manufacturers, leasing companies and one-time go-getters for quick money. Serious offers came from the manufacturing plants, from Bell Helicopter Textron USA, Eurocopter, the manufacturers of Puma Helicopters from France, ULAN-Ude the manufacturers of MI-171 helicopters of another manufacturing plant of Russia. Conspicuous by their absence from the tender bid were the largest helicopter manufacturing plant of Russia Helicopters namely Kazan manufacturing plant. Apparently this was aimed at reducing competition for sister manufacturing plant of ULAN-Ude. This was evident from the fact that ULAN-Ude offered an MI-171 helicopter of utility version at US dollars 2.9 million and VIP version at US dollars 3.2 million as against the offer of US dollars 1.5 million by Kazan plant to Pakistan Army.

Prices offered for these helicopters from the original manufacturers ranged from 15 million US dollars for Western helicopters to US dollars 1.75 million for Russian helicopters. Though the go-getter companies also offered helicopters at a low price, the competence of these companies to actually deliver the helicopters from Russia is seriously doubtful as the laws of the Russian Federation do not permit such companies to export helicopters for sale, the companies are only permitted to lease.

Though the prestigious helicopter manufacturing companies from the Western countries are in the run for the tender, what makes Russian offer unique is that it has been viewed in the defence circles prior to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Moscow sometime in near

future. Defence sources have confirmed that Russia has been playing quite tough with Pakistan on the possibility of defence compensation between the two countries over the last two years.

Nothwithstanding the public pronouncements made from time to time by the Pakistani functionaries for acquiring Russian-made fighter-bombers SU27 and MIG 29, Russia had not until very recently invited Pakistani experts for evaluations of these bombers. Although Pakistani experts have completed evaluation, no further progress has been reported. It has also been learnt that the scheduled visit by the experts of the Pakistan Army was cancelled by their Russian hosts at the eleventh hour last month.

Sindh Chief Claims Indian 'Agents' Involved in Incidents

BK0405151794 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 4 May 94 pp 1,4

[Text] Islamabad (PAKISTAN PRESS AGENCY)—Sindh Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah has said that cases filed against Altaf Hussain, leader of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], or any of its members will not be withdrawn, and the country's politics will be rid of criminal elements. He said that India, with the help of its agents, is creating an atmosphere of fear and terror through the shooting incidents in Karachi and Hyderabad when Pakistan is engaged in drawing the whole world's attention to the Kashmir issue. However, I would like to make it clear that the Pakistan People's Party government under the leadership of Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto is committed to eliminating all types of terrorism. The chief minister said this while addressing the people on the situation in Karachi on television on the evening of 3 May. He said that 22 people, including a woman and a child, have been killed so far in the disturbances during the last four days. More than one and a half dozen policemen and more than 150 innocent citizens have also been injured and 70 vehicles have been burned.

The chief minister said that all this is being done with the intention to cripple Pakistan's industry by making it economically and industrially weak and to weaken Pakistan's stand on Kashmir. India is carrying out daily propaganda over Zee TV that human rights are beng violated in Sindh. MQM leader Altaf Hussain has also joined this propaganda. Leading a lavish life in London, he made statements saying that his eyes are shedding tears of blood over the recent incidents in Karachi. The chief minister said that this is a conspiracy not to divide Sindh but Pakistan. He said that cases against Altaf Hussain were filed by his own allies, meaning, the previous government, and the operation in Sindh was also launched during the same period, which brought relief and peace to the people of Karachi. However, conspiracies were hatched to attack the Army men.

The chief minister said that these persons are harming their own people. We had offered them the opportunity to join the government in the interest of the province and the country. Responsible persons in the MQM leadership who want to join us in the development of Karachi are being held hostage by terrorist elements in the leadership. I am obliged to financially assist the families whose members have been killed by the terrorists. Owners whose buses and vehicles were burned or properties destroyed or damaged should submit their claims. They will be compensated. I call upon the people not to allow the society being held hostage in the hands of criminal elements. In the conclusion, the chief minister said that he shares the grief of those who lost relatives in the incidents and added that in no case, the criminals will be condoned.

Spokesman Berates Indian Charges of Kashmir Involvement

BK0405152194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] Pakistan has said that India is vitiating the mutual atmosphere by harping upon the baseless and malicious allegations of Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir and some other parts of India. A Foreign Office spokesman commenting on the recent propaganda campaign against Pakistan launched by Indian Government said that Indian Government is trying to divert attention from its own failures and brutalities in held Kashmir. The Muslim ambassadors based in New Delhi after visiting the occupied Kashmir have observed that gross violation of human rights are taking place in the valley and the Kashmiris hate India. One of the members of the delegation—the Iranian ambassador, Mr. ('Ali Raza Shaykh Ata)—in a statement has said that the program presented to the delegation in New Delhi was never implemented. He said the members of the delegation were not allowed to visit Hazratbal shrine, Sopor and Bijbiara. He said the meeting with the leaders of Hurriet Conference was not arranged and we were not allowed even to meet and talk with the common people in the valley.

Government To End Public Execution of Criminals

BK0405160294 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 May 94

[Text] The government has decided as a matter of policy not to carry out executions of criminals sentenced to death in public despite the powers vested in it to do so under Section 10 of the Special Courts for Speedy Trials Act 1992. The present government respects the human dignity and upholds the human values as upheld by the civilized and progressive societies of the world.